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OPINION METER
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INSIDE

LOCAL

Hyatt Regency Saipan wins major award for Certified Angus Beef.

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BUSINESS

The new $100 bill will get its coming out party today.

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ASIA

A white diamond the size of a small egg sells for $30.6 million in Hong Kong.

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Girl discharged from CHC

CNMI HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

This photo released by Marvin K. Seman, special assistant CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management, shows one of the victim's of Sunday's Star Marianas plane crash being offloaded a U.S. Navy helicopter for transport to the Commonwealth Health Center.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» 1 of 3 adults needs 'further surgery'

"Where's mommy?" was the question repeated, in Chinese, by the 3-year-old girl who survived the early Sunday morning plane crash on Tinian.

The child was discharged from the Commonwealth Health Center Monday afternoon, while the three adult survivors, including the girl's mother, remain in the hospital.

Federal investigation into the worst commercial aviation incident since at least the early '90s has started, even as families of the victims and Chinese media have begun arriving in the CNMI.

The Star Marianas crash claimed the lives of the child's father, one other female Chinese tourist, and the pilot.

This is barely 11 months since another Star Marianas crash that killed a Chinese tourist and injured six others, including the pilot, on Nov. 19, 2012. Federal investigation into the 2012 crash has yet to

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Autopsy today on crash fatalities

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE and MARK RABAGO
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REPORTER/ASSOCIATE EDITOR

An autopsy will be conducted today, Wednesday, on the pilot and two passengers of the ill-fated Star Marianas Piper Cherokee Six aircraft.

Chief prosecutor Shelli Neal confirmed with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Guam chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola will perform the autopsy at the Commonwealth Health Center.

The bodies of the three fatalities are at CHC's morgue.

As of yesterday, authorities have yet to release the identities of the deceased as well as the four survivors.

Sources, however, identified the pilot as Luis Silva, a native of Mexico. CHC officials described the two other fatalities as Chinese tourists—a 26-year-old male and a 29-year-old female.

CNMI authorities, including the Office of the Attorney General, have been assisting the Federal Bureau of Investigation in securing evidence at the crash site while awaiting the arrival of crash investigators from the National Transpor-

See AUTOPSY on Page 4

FAA: Bad weather during tragic flight

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Federal Aviation Administration said there was heavy rain early Sunday morning when a Star Marianas Piper Cherokee Six aircraft crashed on Tinian, killing three and seriously injuring four people.

FAA Air Traffic Manager Marianas Tim Cornelison, in an interview with Guam-based PNC News, said there was significant weather reported in the channel between Saipan and Tinian.

"The aircraft contacted Saipan tower and asked what the weather was and was told there was weather in the channel. In northern Tinian they have the Voices of America tower and in the antenna they have incredible strobe lights and, as reported from the Saipan tower, you could not see the lights on the Voice of America tower," said Cornelison.

He also confirmed that prior to the deadly crash on Sunday, Star Marianas was also involved in two other mishaps.

"At 3:30 to 4 o'clock Friday afternoon, a Cessna 172 that is owned and operated by Star Marianas had departed the Tinian airport and it was reported to me that it lost power and landed on a roadway on Tinian. No injures and three passengers. No damage to the plane."

The Guam-based FAA official also said that the incident on Saturday involved the pilot of the ill-fated flight Sunday, Luis Silva.

"It was taxiing out of departure on its way to Saipan and missed the turn on the taxiway and ran across the grass area and [the] aircraft ended up on a concrete-enforced drainage ditch and there was damage to the aircraft on that incident…It was reported to me that the pilot was sent for alcohol and drug testing which I believe is the normal [procedure]…It was reported me by the Commonwealth Ports Authority that it was the same pilot from the Saturday incident," said Cornelison, referring to Silva.

Deposition of 2 Swift Air execs postponed to Nov. PAGE 2
Inos, 2 others in S. Korea to meet with E-Land execs. PAGE 3

Local

Deposition of 2 Swift Air execs reset; to be held in NMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U. S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy agreed yesterday to postpone the scheduled deposition of Swift Air executives Jeffrey Conry and Boris Van Lier this month but said it will be done this time in the CNMI instead of North Carolina.

Kennedy ordered the depositions of Conry and Van Lier to be held on Saipan on Nov. 5 and 6, 2013.

Deposition refers to the taking of testimony of a witness outside of court.

Saipan Air Inc. is suing the two for alleged racketeering and is demanding $50 million in damages.

Kennedy said the deposition dates may be changed upon mutual agreement by the parties, without the need for a subsequent court order.

The parties agreed to work out the cost for reimbursement to Saipan Air for expenses incurred by its counsel, Steven Pixley, who is already in North Carolina for the scheduled depositions.

The depositions of Conry, Van Lier, and Swift Air executive Donald Stukes were originally scheduled for Oct. 9 to 11 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Pixley and Vincent Seman appeared at the hearing yesterday for Saipan Air. Pixley, spoke via phone. Attorney Michael White argued for his clients, Conry and Van Lier.

The hearing began on Monday and continued yesterday.

Pixley opposed the postponement of the depositions as he is already in Charlotte, having left Saipan on Sunday at 4:30am.

Pixley said he only learned that Conry and Van Lier asked to postpone the depositions upon landing in Houston that day, after traveling for roughly 20 hours and when he opened his e-mail.

White said that, although Conry and Van Lier have asked for a postponement of the depositions, Stukes is willing to proceed with the deposition.

White cited the ongoing efforts to emerge from bankruptcy as the reason for Conry's and Van Lier's request for postponement.

Kennedy agreed with White.

Red Cross celebrates 35 years of service in CNMI

On Oct. 9, 1978, President Jimmy Carter, then honorary chairman of the National Red Cross, signed the CNMI Charter establishing a Red Cross office here in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Through the leadership of Gil Ada Sr., the Chapter began its long history of providing life-saving help to those in need. In its early years the Chapter relied on guidance and assistance from the Guam Red Cross that had been established in 1910.

The Chapter took a major step forward in 1985 through the tireless dedication and guidance of Juan "Pan" Guerrero. Through his leadership and the assistance of the CNMI government, the Chapter obtained a small financial grant that allowed it to renovate one of the old Japanese bunkers along Airport Road as a Chapter office.

The original governing board included Guerrero, Becky K. Tenorio, Roman Palacios, Lynn Tenorio, Dr. Silvia Rouzard, and Lino Fritz. Through their vision and countless volunteer hours they helped lay the groundwork for the future success of the NMI Chapter.

Through major disasters during typhoons Kim, Koryn, Omar, Wilda, Zelda, Keith, Paka, Chata'an, Pongsona, Chaba, and Melor, the Red Cross provided emergency services as well as several million dollars of financial assistance to families in need.

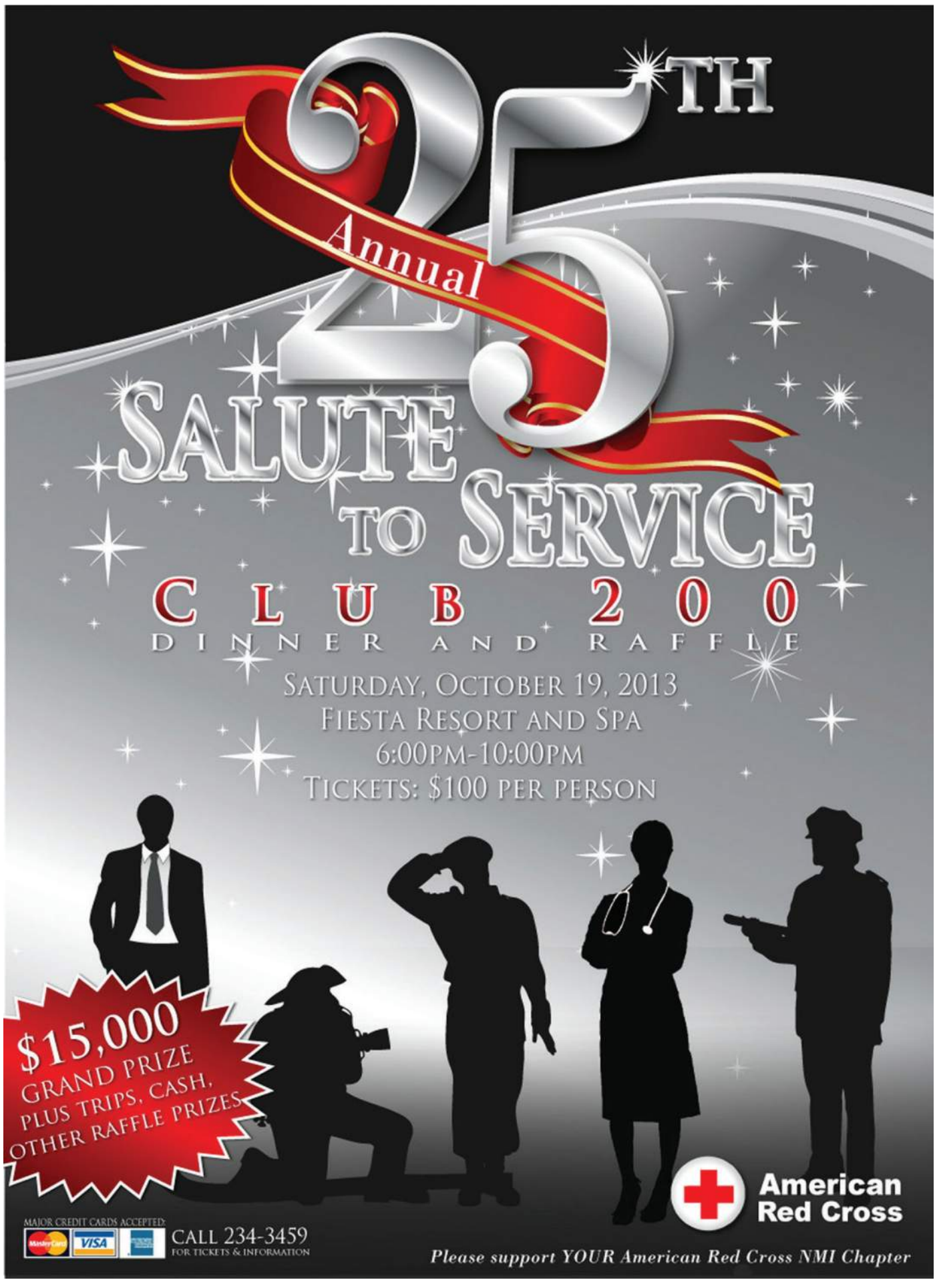
Thirty-five years later, the Chapter continues to provide emergency response services 24/7 through its Disaster Action Team. Whether it's providing clothing for a single-family fire victim; new bedding and a place to stay for a family affected by a flood; or assisting families affected by a recent aviation accident, the Red Cross is there!

In addition the Red Cross is the leading provider of health and safety training in the Commonwealth. Its cadre of highly trained instructors have taught thousands of individuals and businesses life-saving skill like CPR and first aid.

The Chapter also provides a vital communications link for the U.S. military. The Red Cross relays emergency communications to and from service members and their families during life threatening situations.

The NMI Chapter has a remarkable legacy of helping those in need and providing hope to families throughout the CNMI. None of this could be possible without the generosity of donors and volunteers who are the backbone and lifeblood of the Red Cross. Our humanitarian mission is fulfilled everyday by people in our community willing to help those in need!

Happy 35th birthday, Red Cross! ***(ARC)***



Another show-cause order for lawyer

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U. S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued yesterday another show-cause order requiring attorney Stephen C. Woodruff to explain why he should not be held in civil contempt for not complying with an order.

Manglona directed Woodruff to appear in court on Oct. 11 to also explain why a per diem fine for each day of noncompliance should not be imposed on him.

The judge noted that she ordered Woodruff on Aug. 8, 2013, to notify the court, in writing, within the last five days of each month, of the progress of his disciplinary matter in CNMI courts.

In that order, Manglona warned that any failure to comply with the order may subject Woodruff to penalties for civil contempt.

Manglona said a review of the docket shows that for the months of August and September 2013, Woodruff has not notified the court, in writing, of the progress of his CNMI disciplinary matter.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ordered Woodruff's disbarment in June 2013 for committing a total of 44 violations of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct.

Wiseman's order prompted Manglona to issue a notice on June 14, 2013, directing Woodruff to explain why a reciprocal discipline should not be imposed on him.

In his response, Woodruff noted that Wiseman's order is not a final order of discipline as he [Woodruff] exercised his right to appeal and request a stay of sanctions under the CNMI Disciplinary Rules.

On Aug. 8, Manglona put on hold the proceedings on whether or not to impose Wiseman's order that disbars Woodruff from the CNMI Bar. Manglona said the disbarment order is not a final adjudication, given Commonwealth rules that give Woodruff the right to review the disciplinary action and Woodruff's notice of intent to exercise those rights.

Manglona, however, ordered Woodruff to comply with some conditions.

Last Oct. 2, Wiseman found Woodruff in civil contempt for not complying with the court's disbarment order and sentenced him to five days in jail.

The jail sentence will, however, be suspended if Woodruff complies with the requirements of the disbarment order by Oct. 8.

When sought for comment about the civil contempt order, Woodruff said Wiseman needs to recuse himself because of his bias and prejudice against him.

Inos, 2 others in S. Korea to meet with E-Land execs

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and two of his Cabinet officials left for Seoul yesterday morning to meet with officials of the South Korean-based investor E Land that recently broke ground on an initial $40 million renovation of Coral Ocean Point Resort Club as part of its $40 million-some, multi-year investment plan for the hotel.

The governor, Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio, and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio were scheduled to meet with E Land officials yesterday.

"Governor Inos was scheduled to meet with E Land officials regarding their ongoing and planned investments in the CNMI," press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune.*

The officials are expected to be back this afternoon.

Their trip was paid for by the CNMI government, Demapan said.

Inos' trip to Seoul comes some two weeks after the Sept. 25 groundbreaking for Coral Ocean Point's initial $4 million renovation that includes sprucing up the existing 80 rooms, the main building, and swimming pool.

The administration has been encouraging investors to bring online idle hotel rooms or build new hotels at a time when the CNMI lacks hotel rooms to accommodate a resurging visitor arrival into the islands.

Coral Ocean Point's renovation comes at a right time, the governor had said during the groundbreaking, as hotel occupancy is starting to post record-high numbers and the demand for more hotel rooms has increased.

Tourist arrivals to the CNMI reached 400,000 in August, already exceeding the arrival levels seen in 2006 when Japan Airlines was still flying to the CNMI from its main market of Japan.

E Land/Micronesia Resort Inc. also has plans for its other hotels on Saipan—Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio and the former The Palms Resort in San Roque but the company said it would reveal those plans at a later date.

FLOOD-PRONE HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Heavy rain in the afternoon caused flooding in some parts of Beach Road yesterday. Floods along this roadway have become a perennial problem, largely due to the lack of a drainage system in the area.

LAND ASSIGNMENT/LEASE

1. **LAND AND BUILDING ASSIGNMENT**:
WITH POKER BUSINESS AND FORMER PIC LAUNDRY
LAND AREA: 757 SQ.M
LOCATED AT SAN ANTONIO ACROSS PAKPAK BEACH
NEAR PIC HOTEL AND PIC STAFF BARRACKS

2. **LAND AND BUILDING ASSIGNMENT**
WITH 3 COMMERCIAL UNITS AND HOUSE
ALL UNITS WITH TENANT
LAND AREA: 697 SQ. M
LOCATED AT BEACH ROAD GARAPAN NEXT TO CENTURY INSURANCE BUILDING AND SAIPAN TRIBUNE

3. **LAND ASSIGNMENT:** CONSIST OF 2 LOTS
LAND (A): 737 SQ.M **LAND (B)** 779 SQ.M
LAND AND BUILDING ASSIGNMENT
LOCATED ACROSS 13TH FISHERMAN MONUMENT AND NEXT TO MARAIANAS EYE CLINIC

4. **LAND AND BUILDING ASSIGNMENT:** CONSIST OF 2 LOTS WITH 4 COMMERCIAL UNIT, FORMERLY NIKO LAUNDRY AND NIKO MARKET
AND 3 RESIDENTIAL UNITS
LAND AREA: LAND (A) 1124 SQ.M , LAND (B) 1111 SQ. M
LOCATED AT SAN ROQUE BEFORE PALM RESORT AND FORMER LA FIESTA

5. **LAND AND HOUSE ASSIGNMENT**
LAND AREA: 5,000 SQ. M
LOCATED AT DANDAN NEAR DANDAN GOLF RANGE

6. **LAND AND BUILDING ASSIGNMENT**
LAND AREA: 972 SQ.M
LOCATED AT KOBLERVILLE NEXT TO ST. JUDE CHURCH AND CYA STORE

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'Aging PSS infrastructure a major concern'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With some buildings that are more than 50 years old, the Public School System's aging infrastructure has become one of the biggest concerns besetting public education in the Commonwealth, according to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan.

"There are many, many different challenges but one that I can really say is a major concern is the infrastructure within PSS. Some of our schools were built in 1950s and the 1960s," she said in an interview after last week's Education Day proclamation signing and awards recognition at the Board of Education conference room in Susupe.

While PSS has made ends meet by building extensions to these post-World War II buildings, Sablan said it remains of utmost importance that the old buildings be repaired and renovated.

"We hope we can do some renovation to many of our old, old classrooms and buildings in our campuses."

Fortunately for the CNMI and PSS, help is on the way, albeit in two years, as the Office of Insular Affairs will be giving PSS a total of $11 million in fiscal year 2015, specifically to shore up its aging infrastructure.

In all, PSS administers 19 schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Aside from its ever-shrinking budget and aging facilities, Sablan also pointed to the constant changes in the family dynamics and economic structure of the CNMI as another challenge.

"There's so much change within the Commonwealth, whether it's the economy, whether it's families, whether it's the neighborhood, those are really some of the big challenges in our community."

Whatever happens in the community in terms of hardships, it always has a big impact on the local school system, she said.

"We have to go the extra mile to continue to provide the support for our children, not only academically but we also have to get out and work with other agencies such as the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Judiciary, and the U.S. District Court. We really need to come together and work with them so we can identify the services and programs for children that are being affected by all the different issues out there in our community."

Sablan said, however, that there are still a lot of silver linings as PSS celebrates its 25th year of becoming autonomous from the central government.

"Despite the challenges there are a lot of great things happening and I'm glad parents and children can endure their hardship and at the end of the day feel good and feel rewarded by making sure that their children stay in school and make sure they continue learning."

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CW visa applicant's US tourist visa cancelled

GOING BACK TO WASHINGTON STATE HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CNMI Legislative Bureau's Betsy Cruz, seated, a senior Senate legislative assistant, is flanked by her colleagues at the Legislature yesterday afternoon. Cruz, who hails from Tinian, will be leaving today for Washington State after working for the CNMI Legislative Bureau for three-and-a-half years. She plans to pursue a doctorate degree while working.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

"I was shocked and disappointed," said a 41-year-old holder of a CW-2 permit whose valid U.S. tourist visa was "cancelled" while she was applying for a CW visa at the U.S. Embassy in Manila for her return to the CNMI. She laments that this is contrary to earlier federal assurances that valid U.S. tourist visas won't be cancelled while applying for or upon approval of a CW visa.

In a phone interview from Manila, Philippines yesterday, the CW-2 permit holder said it was surprising that her still valid B1/B2 visa in her old passport was stamped "cancelled" when she applied for a CW visa at the embassy on Sept. 25.

"I was disappointed and shocked because USCIS mentioned before that B1/B2 will not be cancelled when you apply for CW visa," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Her 10-year, multiple-entry U.S. tourist visa was supposed to be valid until 2019.

Others who applied for CW visas did not have their valid B1/B2 visas stamped "cancelled," adding to her anxiety and disappointment.

The interviewee, a former accountant on Saipan, requested that her name not be published at this time, fearing that the U.S. State Department would delay the release of her CW visa.

The mother of one has a CW-2 permit, which is for dependents of CW-1 workers.

On the day of her appointment at the U.S. Embassy in Manila on Sept. 25, she said she was helped by a female consul.

Her U.S. tourist visa was in her old passport, which also needs to be presented when applying for another visa at the embassy.

"When the consul returned my old passport, I didn't check it. She took my new passport and that's an indication I will be granted a CW visa, which will be placed in that new passport. When I reached home, that's when I opened my old passport and saw that my B1/B2 visa was cancelled," she said.

She said she has not sent the U.S. Embassy any letter yet because she fears that doing so "might cause a problem on my CW application since my passport is still with them."

The applicant said she hopes that the U.S. Embassy or the U.S. State Department could reinstate her still valid B1/B2 visa "while I am still here in the Philippines."

"I was supposed to come back [to Saipan] last Friday but my CW visa/passport is not with me yet," she added.

CW visas may be issued only after CW petitions have been filed with and are approved by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Information about the CW visa application is available at the U.S. Embassy's website at http://manila.usembassy.gov/cnmi-visas.html.

GIRL

From Page 1

be completed.

CHC interim chief executive officer Esther Muña confirmed yesterday that the youngest survivor was discharged at 4:30pm Monday.

Muña said that one of the three adult survivors requires "further surgery." She declined to comment further on this matter.

She said one adult survivor who is now in "fair" condition was moved to a regular ward yesterday. The patient could also be discharged soon.

The other one is in critical but stable condition and remains in the intensive care unit, along with the other one needing "further surgery."

A medical specialist from Guam is expected to arrive on Saipan as early as today or within the week to assist CHC in the further surgery needed, *Saipan Tribune* sources said.

A Federal Aviation Administration investigator visited the survivors at CHC yesterday and spoke with some CHC personnel as part of the ongoing investigation into the plane crash.

The CNMI government has yet to release the identities of the deceased and the survivors.

All four survivors are Chinese tourists.

Two of the deceased are also Chinese tourists—a 26-year-old female and a 29-year-old male, the father of the young survivor.

The third fatality is the pilot, Luis Silva.

The child survivor is now with one of her uncles, sources said.

The NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross also continues to assist CHC and the survivors.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, one of those who went to the crash site on Sunday and Monday, said it was a "gruesome" scene.

"It was gruesome. It shakes you. I saw the bodies. I've never seen anything like that before. I pray for the families of those affected by what happened. I have also known the pilot Luis for quite some time," the mayor said.

Still, the mayor said that, with some 4,000 takeoffs and landing a month for each aircraft, one major incident in nine months is still a safe record. He, along with others in the community, hopes that there won't be any more of such crash.

The Inos administration itself can only hope that all airlines flying in and out of the Commonwealth strictly adhere to safety standards following Sunday's crash, the third and worst mishap involving the same airline three days in a row.

On Friday afternoon, a Star Marianas plane made an emergency landing on Broadway Avenue on Tinian, followed by a plane that fell into a concrete-enforced drainage at the Tinian airport Saturday morning.

Press secretary Angel Demapan reiterated that the plane crash is a "very unfortunate situation" and it is important that the investigation be conducted to determine the cause of the incident.

"The government is hopeful that all airlines flying in and out of the Commonwealth exercise due diligence in ensuring that all applicable safety standards are strictly adhered to," he added.

On Monday, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said there is no indication at this point that Sunday's crash of a Star Marianas was due to a deliberate act.

FBI special agent Tom Simon said the FBI's role, along with the U.S. Coast Guard and CNMI authorities, is to preserve the evidence at the impact scene while they await the arrival of crash investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board and the FAA.

The Star Marianas Piper Cherokee Six aircraft left the Tinian airport at 2:41am for Saipan but crashed in a jungle on Tinian.

CNMI HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

This photo released by Marvin K. Seman, special assistant CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management shows the trail to the crash site on Mt. Laso, Tinian.

AUTOPSY

From Page 1

tation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration.

One of the survivors, the 3-year-old girl, was released from the hospital yesterday. The three others —two females and one male—remain in critical but stable condition.

Unsafe plane

A tour company executive told a Chinese online news website that aircraft generally used for interisland travel in the CNMI have "poor safety features."

Shanghai China CYTS Outbound Travel Service deputy general manager Liu Xin told China Daily Web (http://www.ecns.cn/2013/10-08/83277.shtml) that certain travel agencies in China arrange a combined travel package to Saipan and Tinian to attract more tourists.

"But we have never arranged this type of trip, as the plane flying between the islands is quite small, with poor safety features," Liu was quoted by China Daily Web as saying.

Shanghai China CYTS Outbound Travel Service, Liu said, only offers individual trips to Tinian and Saipan instead of one package.

Liu said that all services, including hotel reservations and overseas flights, are arranged by travel agencies abroad, and Chinese travel agencies cannot make any changes to the schedule.

Premature

Press secretary Angel Demapan said it is still premature to point fingers on what really caused the tragic accident Sunday morning. He urged everyone to wait for the investigation of the Federal Aviation Administration before passing any hasty judgment.

"The administration, along with all local and federal stakeholders, continue to exert every effort to ensure that this matter is thoroughly investigated. At this time, the FAA has taken over the investigation of this very unfortunate incident. Still, it is premature to categorically state that interisland travel is unsafe. While all are eager for this investigation to be completed, it should not be a cause to overlook the many other successful flights that have been flown interisland over the past several years," Demapan said.

The ill-fated Star Marianas Piper Cherokee Six aircraft left the West Tinian Airport at 2:41am last Sunday but never reached its destination at the Saipan International Airport.

At 10:32am the same day, its wreckage was found in the middle of Tinian in jungle terrain inaccessible by land. Of the seven on board, four survived and are now being treated at the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan.

China Daily Web also reported that the Star Marianas plane crash was the second plane crash to claim the lives of Chinese tourists during the week-long National Day holiday.

Last Thursday, Oct. 3, a Chinese tourist and a pilot were confirmed dead after an ultra-light plane crashed in Pokhara, Nepal.

Police in Nepal said the two-seater aircraft, belonging to Avia Club Pokhara, crashed near Shanti Stupa, a well-known tourist attraction in the city, at 9:30am, according to the China Daily Web.

Acting governor signs two CNMI laws, 4 Rota local laws

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider signed a total of six public and local laws yesterday, including one that requires government agencies such as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to fix the roads they cut or damage, and a $200,000 appropriation for the Rota Casino Gaming Commission.

Of the four Rota local laws signed, the acting governor line-item vetoed one that appropriates $1,000 each in public funds to two private schools for lack of justification for their use.

Hofschneider signed the six measures while Gov. Eloy S. Inos was in Seoul, South Korea, yesterday.

The acting governor signed Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 18-11 into Public Law 18-22, which, among other things, reduces by 25 percent the veteran vehicle license plate fee for those who previously served in the U.S. armed forces.

The new law also waives the fee charged for the issuance of a veteran license plate to a veteran with a permanent and total disability.

"It's about time the CNMI provide this to our veterans. It's not about the discounts they receive but the way we help honor our veterans' sacrifices to protect our freedom. In other states, these are provided for free to veterans. I will continue to help our veterans any way I can," Deleon Guerrero, a veteran himself, told *Saipan Tribune.*

Hofschneider signed another of Deleon Guerrero's bill, H.B. 18-116, into Public Law 18-23, requiring government agencies such as CUC to repair the roads they cut into or retrench for road safety reasons, among other things.

Deleon Guerrero, in an interview, hopes that the new law will finally address the more than 100 portions of CNMI streets and roads that are still waiting for repair, some of them long after "government agencies" cut into them or trenched them as part of their projects.

The current road cutting conditions and enforcement challenges pose safety hazards and puts at risk federal funds over the CNMI's non-compliance with federal rules on the islands' responsibility to maintain and manage designated routes.

"These government agencies have to work with the Department of Public Works on this. Just an example is a motorcyclist who got into an accident in As Matuis recently because of a road cut. Had the government agency fixed that road they cut, we wouldn't have accidents like this," the freshman lawmaker said.

Line-item veto

The acting governor signed into law a local bill appropriating $49,500 in poker license fees for Rota patients, programs, and services but with disapproved items or line-item vetoes.

Rep. Teresita Santos' (R-Rota) House Local Bill 18-31, Draft 1 is now Rota Local Law 18-5.

The acting governor disapproved two items in this measure—one appropriating $1,000 for Grace Christian Academy and one also giving $1,000 for Eskuelan San Francisco De Borja School.

"I disapproved items (d) and (e) as it appropriates public funds to private schools without any details as to the exact purpose for which it is appropriated. Absent justification that it is for a public purpose, I am unable to approve these provisions. I urge the local delegation to revisit the matter and re-appropriate the funds if the public purpose test is met," Hofschneider said in his transmittal letter to Rota Legislative Delegation chair Rep. Teresita Santos and House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan).

The new local law gives $30,900 for the Department of Finance to provide monthly subsistence allowance for Rota residents undergoing dialysis and treatment for terminal illness outside Rota.

Another $10,000 is for the Rota mayor's contingency fund for the annual fiestas, $5,000 for the Rota Municipal Council for fly traps and other programs, and $1,600 for the Rota Annual Fishing Derby.

$200,000 for Rota casino body

The acting governor signed Santos' HLB 18-28 into Rota Local Law 18-6, appropriating $200,000 for the Rota Casino Gaming Commission's operations and activities for fiscal year 2013. There is no operational casino industry on Rota right now.

Most or $163,520.14 of this amount is appropriated for the salaries of past and present commissioners and executive director. Salaries owed range from $6,923.07 to $41,225.93.

The new law also appropriates $26,000 for the Torres Brothers Law Firm; $6,000 for operation; $1,479.86 for a digital camera and recorder; and $3,000 for communication.

Hofschneider also signed Senate vice president Victor Hocog's (R-Rota) Senate Local Bill 18-1 that dissolves the Medical Assistance Board on Rota. The bill is now Rota Local Law 18-3.

The acting governor also signed Hocog's SLB 18-2 into Rota Local Law 18-4, removing a provision that reserves half of poker license fee increases for retroactive salary payments because $200,000 is already reserved for this purpose in the 2014 CNMI budget law.

Rangamar acquitted of all charges

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sergio M. Rangamar, a 36-year-old man accused of aiming a gun at his two cousins, was cleared of all charges yesterday.

After deliberating for only 30 minutes, the six Superior Court jurors rendered a unanimous verdict finding Rangamar not guilty of assault with a dangerous weapon. The charge involved the defendant's cousin, Jacob Fitipol Nekaifes.

"You are a free man effective at this moment," Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho told Rangamar, who appeared calm after hearing the verdict.

Before the jury deliberation, Camacho dismissed three other charges: disturbing the peace involving Jacob Nekaifes, and assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace involving June Alfred Nekaifes.

Camacho found that the government failed to provide sufficient evidence to support the charges and noted that there was no testimony at all with respect to June Alfred Nekaifes.

The prosecution did not call June Nekaifes to the witness stand.

The court dismissed a criminal contempt charge on Monday.

Camacho dismissed the three charges yesterday after attorney Mark Scoggins, counsel for Rangamar, moved for a judgment of acquittal on all charges.

Scoggins made the motion shortly after assistant attorneys general Barbara Cepeda and James McAllister rested the government's case after calling in eight witnesses.

Jacob Nekaifes testified on Monday that Rangamar aimed a gun at him and June Nekaifes, who was near him, in Gualo Rai on Jan. 31, 2013. Jacob Nekaifes said the defendant was about 45 feet away from them.

Rangamar has been detained since he was arrested in February 2013 for allegedly aiming a P38 9mm semi-automatic pistol at his two cousins for cleaning the premises of a property in Gualo Rai on Jan. 31, 2013. Police recovered the 9mm semi-automatic pistol and several bullets at the scene.

Last month, the Office of the Attorney General dismissed the charges of illegal possession of a firearm and illegal possession of ammunition.

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Rotary looking for alternate site for Trunk or Treat

Halloween is a mere three weeks away but the federal shutdown is throwing a monkey wrench on the Rotary Club of Saipan's hosting of the annual Trunk or Treat.

Rotary president Laila Y. Boyer said that if the U.S. government shutdown lasts up to Oct. 31, they will have no choice but to look for other venues. The event has always been held at the American Memorial Park.

"Trunk or Treat will have to be moved because of the U.S. federal government shutdown so the alternate venues Rotary is looking at are the Oleai Sports Complex parking lot or the Joeten Superstore. Rotary is in discussions with the management of the two venues," she said during the club's weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday.

Rotary vice president Richard Cody, however, said he doesn't recommend moving the event to the sport complex parking lot because of traffic concerns.

The complex, which houses the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field, "Tan Ge" Basa Softball Field, and soccer field, is located along Beach Road, which is a main thoroughfare.

Rotary member Agnes McPhetres, for her part, suggested using the Marianas Business Plaza as an alternate venue.

She said the Susupe landmark's parking lot is spacious and traffic can easily be rerouted because it's not along a main thoroughfare.

One concern, though, is that the event may conflict with the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's own Halloween activity. The library is a stone throw away from the former Nauru Building.

Boyer pointed out, though, that the JKPL event starts earlier, around 3:30pm, and is a smaller event compared to Trunk or Treat. She added that Rotary has no problem combining both Halloween events if the state library agrees.

Aside from a possible change of venue, this year also marks the passing of Trunk or Treat organizing duties from the American Memorial Park to the Rotary Club—a move that was not precipitated by the federal government shutdown.

Chief ranger Jason Beatty earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the local Rotary Club is better suited to organizing Trunk of Treat than the AMP.

Unlike previous years, Boyer said the 2013 Trunk of Treat event would also have a later starting time so that candies, especially chocolates, won't melt under the heat of the sun.

Boyer continues to ask businesses and government agencies to help the Rotary in organizing the event. This year's theme would be local legends and Boyer is urging the community to dress up and make their costumes with that in mind.

Last year, some 2,500 Halloween revelers put on colorful and elaborate costumes during the 2012 Trunk or Treat at the American Memorial Park. ***(Mark Rabago)***

October is Action Energy Month

With various literature about energy efficiency, pens made of recycled materials, and even a small handheld fan that doubles as a flashlight strewn across the table at the Governor's Office conference room, Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov Jude U. Hofschneider proclaimed October as Action Energy Month last Sept. 31.

Vincent Attao, acting Energy Division director, said the promotional materials they brought to the proclamation signing are the same stuff they will be distributing to the community throughout the month of October to promote energy efficiency and conservation in the CNMI.

Inos said that peak demand on electricity usage throughout the Commonwealth has gone down, helped along by the efforts of the Energy Division.

"While the high cost of power has been the culprit, the Energy Division's outreach programs that gives folks alternatives by using more efficient light bulbs and appliances like refrigerators and air-condition have also contributed to the lower usage," he said.

To this end, the governor thanked Uncle Sam as well as staff of the Energy Division for working hard to pursue reduced energy consumption.

Inos and Hofschneider also proclaimed Oct. 31 as Weatherization Day.

The proclamation said the CNMI WAP program in all has spent $989,743 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds from 2009 to 2013, and $339,469 in its Annual Formula Grant Funds, which translates to an average expenditure of $1,300 per home to improve the wellbeing of hundreds of CNMI residents.

"This program not only saves energy through advanced technologies to improve the energy affordability for low-income families, but also improves the health and safety of families by identifying carbon monoxide hazards, poor indoor air quality, mold, and other health threats," it read.

The CNMI WAP has assisted 670 qualified low-income families by providing energy conservation education information, replacing inefficient refrigerator, window air condition units, and light bulbs, installation of smoke detectors, and insulation of room fenestration, window gaps, and cracks. ***(Mark Rabago)***

MARK RABAGO

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, center, pose with Energy Division staff after a proclamation signing declaring October Action Energy Month and Oct. 31 Weatherization Day last Sept. 31 at the Governor's Office.

Energy Division lines up freebies

October has been proclaimed as "Energy Action Month." In line with this, the CNMI Energy Division will be hosting several energy efficiency and conservation awareness events throughout the month to promote awareness and educate the community about the importance of energy efficiency and conservation throughout the CNMI.

■ **Conservation Week**: CFL and ECO Bag Distribution: Oct. 15 to Oct. 18, from 9am to 4pm (closed from 11:30am to 12:30pm), at House No. 1337, located on Ascencion Drive on Capital Hill

■ **Awareness and Education Open House**: Energy Savings Kit Distribution, from Oct. 23 to Oct. 25, from 9am to 4pm (closed from 11:30am to 12:30pm), at House No. 1337, located on Ascencion Drive on Capital Hill

■ **Recycling Week**: Recycling Bin Distribution, from Oct. 28 to Oct. 30, from 9am to 4pm (closed from 11:30am to 12:30pm), at the EECBG Office, Spring Plaza, Chalan Pale Arnold Rd. (Middle Road), Gualo Rai.

All weekly promotions are available to all residential paying customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., on a first-come, first-serve basis, and customers must provide a copy of their most current CUC utility bill and a valid ID to receive the free items.

Acting Energy director Vincent S. Attao encourages everyone to be a part of the solution in protecting the environment through recycling efforts and energy conservation. By simply replacing at least one incandescent bulb with a qualified energy-efficient Energy Star CFL, we can all make a difference.

For questions or information regarding the Energy Awareness Events, contact the Energy Division at telephone nos. 664-4480/1. ***(Office of the Governor)***

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

TINIAN HARBOR SEAWATER FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEM PROJECT NO. CPA-TS-001-13

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for design of seawater fire-fighting system for the Tinian Harbor, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. These services will include an assessment of the existing conditions and design of a new seawater fire-fighting system to be installed at the Tinian Harbor including plans, specifications and estimates for the anticipated repair work and improvements.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. A/E Design experience related to CPA projects;
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with seaport projects;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for seaport projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, November 8, 2013**.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: October 4, 2013

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian & Aguiguan

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, October 10, 2013, at 8:30 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference room.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
II. **Public Comments**[1]
III. **Reports**
   a. Chair's Report
   b. Executive Director's Report
IV. **New Business**
   a. Casino Employee License Applications
V. **Executive Session**[2]
VI. **Miscellaneous/Administrative Matters**
VII. **Adjournment**

[1]Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

This happy birthday shoutout goes to my sister Norma Tagabuel! May God bless you always and may you have many more blessings and celebrations to come. Love you, sister, and hope to see you soon! Miss you always! Greetings come from Jojo and Shaun.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

John Gonzales LIVE schedule

John Gonzales LIVE today, Oct. 9, 2013, will feature the topic, "Article 12 and Immigration: Social and Economic Impacts," from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on MCV Ch. 14. Viewers can participate by calling 287-4230, texting 285-META (6382), or emailing johngonzaleslive@gmail.com. The show will be replayed on Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 14 and 15, 2013. John Gonzales LIVE also rebroadcasts worldwide via Betelnut Radio (www.betelnutradio.com). ***(PR)***

Chamber luncheon meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its October general membership luncheon meeting tomorrow, Oct. 9, 2013, at the Pacific Islands Club from 11:30am to 12pm. Luncheon begins at 11:30am, while the meeting agenda commences at noon.

The meeting will feature two guest speakers this month: Maj. Chris Merrill, USMC, Operations Officer of Marine Corps Activity Guam, and Juan Carlos Benitez of the Northern Mariana Islands EB-5 Regional Center.

The SCC general membership luncheon is $20 for SCC members, $30 for non-members and guests. Contact the Chamber offices at 233-7150, or by emailing coordinator@saipanchamber.com to make reservations. ***(SCC)***

Commerce to hold presentation on Economic Model

The CNMI Department of Commerce announced yesterday that there will be a presentation of the CNMI's newly developed Economic Model on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2013, at 6pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. The purpose of the presentation is to explain the newly developed Economic Model and its practical uses for the CNMI.

As part of its mandates, Commerce is tasked with providing regular reports regarding the economic condition of the CNMI. Historically, Commerce, through its Central Statistics Division, has issued the Consumer Price Index and Economic Indicators as a means to measure economic health. In 2007, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, in collaboration with the CNMI government, issued the first CNMI Gross Domestic Product measures. Subsequent to the 2007 release, the BEA released an updated GDP estimate for 2010.

Igisomar

"Commerce has been working diligently to provide as much economic data as possible to policy makers and the general public in an effort to gauge the CNMI's economic health. While we have been successful in updating information on the historical economic health, the CNMI has lacked an appropriate forecasting model [that] is primarily intended to help predict the economic impact of a particular policy or project," said Commerce Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar. "For this reason, we requested to utilize grant funds made available through the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs to hire an economic adviser to develop the CNMI's Economic Model."

The contractor made a presentation to the Office of the Governor earlier this year to discuss data gaps that exist and the impacts of those data gaps on the economic model. Despite the data gaps, the contractor has been able to develop an economic model that will be able to decipher employment, income, and output effects of particular projects or policy decisions. The CNMI's 1999 model, which was developed by Dick Conway & Malcom McPhee, is outdated and does not reflect current economic conditions, including the exit of the garment industry and changes to wage structure in the CNMI.

According to Igisomar, the newly developed economic model will aid the CNMI's policy makers and economic development agencies in their contemplation of important programs, including the Qualifying Certificate program.

"With the completion of the economic model, economic development agencies will be better poised to assess multiplier impacts of various projects or business proposals seeking to gain tax incentives," said Igisomar.

According to Commerce's project manager, Mark Rabauliman, "since we are unable to conduct this presentation on Tinian and Rota, we will make the presentation available for viewing on the department's website. We will also be able to answer any questions that residents on Tinian and Rota may have about the presentation." ***(Office of the Governor)***

Six Tinian beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged six beaches on Tinian and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected beaches are Unai Dangkolo, Unai Babui, Leprosarium Beach 1, Leprosarium Beach 2, Taga Beach, and Kammer Beach.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

The division analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 10 locations on Tinian this week.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

CLUB 200 SUPPORTER IT&E STAFF

American Red Cross representatives, John Hirsh, second left, and Tayna Camacho, right, receive a $10,000 donation from IT&E sales and marketing manager Hans Mickelson, second right, and Brad Ruszala, left, Thursday, Oct. 3, at IT&E's branch office in Chalan Laulau. IT&E is one of ARC's major sponsors for this year's Club 200 dinner and raffle, scheduled for Oct. 19 at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

Priscilla M. Torres
Thomas A. Manglona
Dept. 2318 PMB 10001
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel (670) 287-2652

Petitoners
PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In re the Estate of	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0195E**
BERNADITA A. MANGLONA,	**NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CO-ADMINISTRATORS**
Deceased	

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, AND CREDITORS OF BERNADITA A. MANGLONA, DECEASED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Priscilla Manglona Torres and Thomas A. Manglona have filed with the Clerk of this Court a Petition for Appointment of Co-Administrators for the Estate of Bernadita A. Manglona. The hearing on the Petition is set for 1:30 p.m. on October 22, 2013 at the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

For future particulars, please refer to the petition on file herein or contact Priscilla Manglona Torres at (670) 287-2652.

Creditors of the Decedent or of this estate are hereby notified that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court for the Superior Court within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 8th day of October, 2013.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Justine Marie Aguilar Indalecio
PMB 45 Box 10001
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 285-4428
(670) 235-4428

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change Of Name of: Justine Marie Aguilar Miayo, Petitioner Justine Marie Aguilar Indalecio	**FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0416** **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 24, 2013, at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 1st day of October, 2013.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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INVITATION FOR BID

NMHC IFB 2013-005

This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

OFFICE SPACE FOR NMHC IN ROTA

OPENING DATE OF BID: Friday, October 25, 2013
Time: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors through its Chairwoman of the Board, are soliciting competitive sealed bids from interested owners of commercial buildings in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up the Scope of Work at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Field Office in Songsong Village, Rota, during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. Inquiries may be directed to Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager, at telephone nos. 670.234-6866/7689 during regular business hours or Barrie C. Toves, Rota Field Office Representative, at 670.532-9410.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal in the best interest of the NMHC and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Thirteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, October 10, 2013 at 3:30 p.m. at the BOE Conference Room in Bwughos Street, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary**
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

II. **Public Comments**[1]

III. **New Business**
1. Resolutions of Change of Banks Signatories

IV. **Executive Session**[2]
1. Preliminary Report from AdvancED External Review Team

V. **Administrative Matters**

VI. **Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting**

VII. **Adjournment**

[1]Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

INTERNATIONAL INDEPENDENT MARKETER OF THE YEAR

Hyatt Regency Saipan wins major CAB award

Gabriele Colombo, Hyatt Regency Saipan's executive chef, center, receives the award from John Stika, Certified Angus Beef president, right, and Geof Bednar, International/Certified Angus Beef director, left.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

When it comes to providing their customers the very best, leading chefs know premium beef must be served.

Culinary leaders were honored Sept. 18-20 by the Certified Angus Beef® brand for innovative beef promotions. The awards, presented during its annual conference at the JW Marriott Desert Springs in Palm Desert, Calif., honored chefs, distributors, cattle ranchers, and retailers for their accomplishments this year.

"Premium quality is driven by passion for the details," said John Stika, the brand's president. "These culinary leaders represent the ranchers, food distributors and licensed restaurants who are dedicated to bringing their best to the table everyday through the Certified Angus Beef® brand."

Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods, exclusive distributors of the Certified Angus Beef® brand, revealed that Giovanni's Restaurant of the Hyatt Regency is the International Independent Restaurant Marketer of the Year for Certified Angus Beef®. The restaurant's premium beef and wine focus included the "Roasts, Reds and Rendezvous" celebration, a monthlong promotion.

The award is given to the top licensed independent international restaurant. There are 1,500 licensed international restaurants from 40 countries that the Hyatt Saipan was selected from.

Certified Angus Beef® employees decide upon the award considering supportive information and dialogue about the nominees, along with factoring a list of 10 different criteria.

On hand at the annual conference to receive the award was Hyatt executive chef Gabriele Colombo. He has been with the Hyatt Regency for over eight years and takes great pride in serving his customers premium beef.

Certified Angus Beef® is provided at all Hyatt Regency outlets with the finest quality steaks prepared at Giovanni's Restaurant and Teppanyaki Restaurant.

"It has been a great honor receiving this prestigious award during the 2013 Certified Angus Beef annual conference on behalf of our food and beverage team at Giovanni's," said Colombo. "In Saipan everybody loves beef and accompanied by some great wines it was easy for me to come up with different menus and recipes together with my talented team of chefs to create different styles and cuisines."

Chef Colombo added, "Working with Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods and Certified Angus Beef has been a real privilege. When I joined the Hyatt eight years ago, it was the first time for me to utilize this premium brand of beef as the quality and consistency is by far the best in the market. Being able to attend the conference was a wonderful experience for me to meet a lot of great people that use and promote this great brand of beef.

Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods and the Hyatt's "Roasts, Reds and Rendezvous" event is an annual promotion that is in its fifth year. The event was created to bring together premium beef and select Kendall-Jackson wines from Pacific Trading Company. The promotion includes Certified Angus Beef® paired with Kendall-Jackson wine menu specials during the month of April and concludes with a gala event to culminate the celebration.

"Witnessing the Hyatt and Chef Colombo win this prestigious award brings great joy to us here at Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods as the Roasts, Reds and Rendezvous event is our signature Certified Angus Beef promotion," said Jay Santos, general manager for Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods. "Moreover, when you consider the fact that Giovanni's Restaurant beat out 1,500 other CAB licensed restaurants across the globe, this is indeed a huge accomplishment. The Five Star team congratulates Chef Gabriele Colombo and the entire Food & Beverage Department at the Hyatt as they truly deserve this award."

Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods is a subsidiary of Triple J Saipan, Inc. and has been the exclusive distributor for Certified Angus Beef® for well over 12 years. They take great pride in providing quality foodservice products to hotels, restaurants and retail stores on Saipan. ***(Triple J)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, International/Certified Angus Beef director Geof Bednar, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Gabriele Colombo, Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods – Guam purchasing manager Keith Toy, and Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods—Saipan general manager Jay Santos.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 9, 2005

Cargo shipments' decline seen

The volumes of cargo being shipped via CNMI ports are expected to decline about 5 percent annually between 2005 and 2010, according to a Washington-based consultant hired by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. BST Associates noted that the Commonwealth's cargo volumes had dipped by an average of 3.2 percent per year between 2001 and 2004. The annual decline rate is forecast to reach 4.9 percent between 2005 and 2010 as a result of the ongoing downsizing in the CNMI garment industry. Estimates by BST Associates showed that overall cargo volumes would reach only 745,000 revenue tons in 2005, as compared to approximately 845,000 revenue tons in 2002 and 825,000 revenue tons last year.

Praxis regulation now in effect

A new regulation requiring public school teachers to pass two Praxis tests are now in effect. The State Board of Education adopted without modification the draft amendment it had proposed regarding Praxis and teacher certification regulations. The new regulation appeared in the latest issue of the Commonwealth Register and took effect 10 days upon publication. The amendment requires all teachers to pass both Praxis I and II tests. Only licensed related service providers are exempted from the requirement. All current teachers are given until Aug. 31, 2006 to pass the Praxis examinations, regardless of the expiration date of their individual contracts.

October 9, 2006

Checks issued show inconsistencies

Of the numerous checks issued out of the $1.3-million estate of Rita Kaipat, former estate's administrator's counsel, Saipan attorney Joseph Arriola, only acknowledged the issuance of only four checks. Superior Court Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama noted that some checks were written for greater quantities while signatures are not consistent. Lizama conducted a hearing on Sept. 25, 2006 to question Arriola and his former client, Luis Pelisamen, the former administrator of estates of Dolores Pelisamen and Rita Kaipat. At the hearing, the judge reviewed all the checks issued and cashed from the Rita Kaipat estate.

Surf to get normal today, but wet weather to continue midweek

Surf was declared hazardous yesterday, but is expected to fall below dangerous levels by today in the Marianas Islands, according to the National Weather Service Forecast office in Guam. The Emergency Management Office also reported that the wet weather pattern will continue through midweek as the monsoon trough lingers over the Marianas. NWSF said the monsoon surge has diminished, allowing seas to quickly subside. NWSF said the surf was hazardous yesterday, reaching eight to 10 feet along southwest, west and northwest facing reefs in Saipan, Rota, Tinian, and Guam.

October 9, 2007

Villagomez hawks CNMI at investment conference

Acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez gave an upbeat report about the local economy at a business conference in Guam yesterday. In his remarks during the opening of the 2007 Island Business Opportunities Conference, Villagomez described the CNMI as "probably the second most developed U.S. Pacific market following the larger island of Guam." Investments in the Commonwealth are on rise, the CNMI official told government and business leaders attending the two-day international conference sponsored by the U.S. Interior Department. He spoke about the KSA Group of Korea's hotel project, the Kumho Asiana Group's bid to expand the Korean tourism market, and investment plans for the Tinian casino industry. He also talked about Bridge Capital's new CNMI headquarters and Loyola Medical Foundation's medical school project.

DPH outsourcing INR lab test

The Department of Public Health is currently unable to perform a basic lab test known as INR or International Normalized Ratio, due to a delay in the arrival of needed reagents. Joe Santos, deputy secretary for Hospital Administration, confirmed that the hospital currently does not have the capacity to perform the test, so some tests are being sent to Guam or Hawaii for evaluation. The INR, a system for reporting the results of blood coagulation or clotting tests for patients, is vital for patients who need to undergo operations or certain treatments.

Guam Guard soldiers shift missions in northern Afghanistan

» Changes due to US drawdown and base closure

Soldiers from a platoon of the Guam Army National Guard's Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, stand outside its temporary home late August at Forward Operating Base Kunduz, Afghanistan.
U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/SGT. EDDIE SIGUENZA

By SGT EDDIE SIGUENZA
GUAM ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

CAMP SPANN, Afghanistan—Forward Operating Base Kunduz, located in the semi-arid northern Afghanistan region, was a place Sgt. 1st Class Celso Leonen called home for almost half a year.

Among the units housed at FOB Kunduz were about two dozen Alpha Company soldiers, the unit that ran nearly 80 missions supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Leonen's security forces platoon of Alpha Company soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, occupied a small sector of the base and operated throughout the German area of responsibility.

As of mid-September, FOB Kunduz has become a practically barren flat area of land. Leonen's group was compelled to leave the compound in late August, and was reunited with their Alpha company brothers and sisters at Camp Spann, roughly an eight-hour convoy trip away.

The move was considered good news, as it demonstrated action as part of the U.S. plan to eventually withdraw with coalition forces from Afghanistan. The exodus entails the shutting down of FOBs, camps, and other U.S. occupied facilities. FOB Kunduz is one of several in Regional Command-North that'll be turned over to Afghan National Security control later this year.

"Over there," said Leonen, pointing to an isolated area that was once a tent city, "That's where we used to live. There's nothing there now except the concrete T-walls."

Even the thousands of T-walls, concrete security barriers as high as 15 feet and each weighing more than a ton, will be removed, says Capt. Thomas Feeney, a U.S. Army logistics/transition officer who led the closing of FOB Altimur earlier this year. There is the option to destroy them if they are no longer needed.

As of mid-September, hundreds of tents that housed U.S. and coalition forces, including members of the Guam Army National Guard's Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, were taken down at Forward Operating Base Kunduz, Afghanistan. The base is one of several that will be closed by the end of 2013 as U.S. and coalition forces withdraw from the country. U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/SGT. EDDIE SIGUENZA

Staff Sgt. Clarence L. Elicio, squad leader for Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, leads civilian contractors and military representatives into a newly built compound at Chahar Dara District, Kunduz Province, Afghanistan.
U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/SGT. EDDIE SIGUENZA

"T-walls are a perfect example," Feeney said. "It can be more cost-effective to bury these in place than to waste money to transport these chunks of concrete from base to base."

The Alpha soldiers performed their last Kunduz-area mission in mid-September. They escorted Air Force representatives who oversee projects at the district and provincial headquarters in the Chahar Dara district. This was their third guardian angel/security forces mission in the Kunduz area since leaving it and perhaps their last.

First Lt. Christopher Candaso, Alpha platoon leader, said his soldiers are adapting to their new mission routine. They now have to convoy a minimum of six to eight hours—with a rest overnight at Combat Outpost Khilagay about four hours away—to perform a specific mission. This is a turnaround from what was done before.

"When we were at Kunduz, we planned for one mission every day," Candaso explained. "But now we plan for one mission that'll take six or seven days. It's different than what we've done before, but we're adapting to it."

"The good part about this is everyone's back at Spann; everyone's back together," added 1st Lt. Peter Guerrero, Alpha Company commander. "They're still going to conduct missions, but they're longer and farther. It's a lot more risky because there's more driving. They're out on the road a lot more now. No matter what mission they're on, they always perform above and beyond."

"The distance requires a lot more movement," said Leonen. "It's a lot more challenging because there's a lot more planning. The good always outweighs the bad. No matter what, we're always going to be prepared."

Candaso and Leonen credit all their soldiers for the positives aspects of their Kunduz experience. Everyone remained mission-focused, Candaso said. In the first weeks of arrival, they had to network with other units and sources to obtain necessities. Everyone chipped in to make their living area habitable, and operations center workable.

"We didn't fall under anyone when we got here. We had to work to get specific things," said Candaso.

Guam instantly became a part of the big OEF picture since arriving in April. The unit figures to remain a part of the OEF exodus spotlight as one of the last units in Afghanistan.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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THIS HALLOWEEN, VISIT...
UNCLE SAM'S HOUSE OF HORRORS!
YOUR SECRETS WILL BE REVEALED IN THE NSA HALL OF EYES!
CRAWL THROUGH THE DEBT CEILING TUNNEL IF YOU DARE!
WILL YOU SURVIVE THE ATTACK OF THE FURLOUGH ZOMBIES?
ALL VICTIMS ARE ESSENTIAL!
BEWARE! IN THE SHUTDOWN SHACK NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU SCREAM!
NOOOOOO!!!
CLOSED
GO AWAY!
THIS OFFICE CLOSED!
KEEP OUT!
CLOSED
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD
KOTERBA

What the new climate report really says

By ERIC POOLEY
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Eric Pooley, a former managing editor of Fortune, *is a senior vice president of the Environmental Defense Fund (www.edf.org), and the author of* The Climate War: True Believers, Power Brokers, and the Fight to Save the Earth *(Hyperion, 2010).*

The people who are paid to spread doubt and confusion about our changing climate have been working overtime this week, because the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a scientific body that includes thousands of the world's best climate scientists, has just issued its latest assessment. The IPCC report is the Olympics of climate change—once every few years the best in the world show us the results of thousands of the most recent research studies. Inevitably, it brings out the peddlers of doubt, people who do their best to muddy the waters about our changing climate. It's so predictable you could write a book about it.

In fact, I did write one. Six years ago, when the last IPCC assessment came out, I left my day job in journalism and started work on "The Climate War." I thought it would be a book about how we finally started to get serious about climate change—I figured we had to, because that report declared that global warming was "unequivocal" and that most of the observed warming was "very likely" caused by human activity.

Instead, it became a book about how we didn't get serious. The peddlers of doubt won that round and, in 2010, they defeated climate action in the U.S. Senate.

Now the IPCC is back with a new report. Basically, the scientists are as sure that human activity is warming the planet as they are that cigarettes cause cancer.

That means we have another chance to get it right. And we have a deeper understanding of how high the stakes are. Here are a few nuggets from the new report:

■ Ocean levels may rise by 3 feet by the end of this century if emissions are not curbed. Stand on the shore in Lower Manhattan, Miami or Mumbai and contemplate what that means.

■ The chances of an extreme heat wave have more than doubled, and heavy rainfall events are expected to intensify and occur more often.

■ The carbon pollution we put in the atmosphere now—the stuff that's causing global temperatures to rise—will stay here for a long time. One-fifth of it will still be up there in 1,000 years. That's why we have to move to clean energy now, because the problem is very hard to fix once the pollution is in the air.

■ The oceans are becoming more acidic due to excess amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. That has damaging impacts on marine life, coral reefs, and the global food chain.

■ A recent "pause" in warming—much trumpeted by the peddlers of doubt—is partly caused by natural variations in the climate and is unlikely to last as we load more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. (During this "pause" we've had 12 of the 14 hottest years since recording keeping began in 1880.)

The short version is that the path we're on—pumping billions of tons of greenhouses gases into the atmosphere every year—is not sustainable. Like a factory dumping toxic waste into the river where you fish for dinner, it has consequences for our health. In the case of climate change, those consequences will be stronger and more expensive storms, the spread of insect borne diseases, longer droughts,

See CLIMATE on Next Page

The unsettled health-care law

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

Ever since Obamacare's stormy passage in early 2010, Democrats have been waiting anxiously for the program to go into effect and hoping that a dose of reality would calm the partisan battles over the health insurance plan. Once everything was up and running, they hoped, skeptical Americans would see that Obamacare was a good idea all along—and reward the party that brought it to them.

That's looking unlikely, at least in the short run. Last week's glitch-filled rollout of Obamacare's health exchange websites, combined with Republicans' furious refusal to accept the program as what President Obama calls "settled law," confirmed something political strategists in both parties had already predicted: The war over Obamacare is far from over.

"It's unlikely that the Affordable Care Act will be widely popular until people have real experience with it—until it becomes the new normal," a leading Democratic strategist told me. "We're talking about years, not weeks or months."

Nobody expected the launch of a fleet of balky websites to make an immediate difference to perceptions of the health insurance plan, not even with endorsements from icons like Lady Gaga, who managed to get the main website address wrong in her promotional tweet.

Still, the opening-day problems and the slow pace of applications for health insurance were not encouraging signs.

More important, in the long run, was the Republican Party's reaffirmation—spurred by Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and other tea party legislators—that repealing, defunding or dismantling the program remains one of its top goals.

The tea party caucus has succeeded in making resistance to Obamacare a litmus test for Republicans, and as a result, it's likely that next year's congressional election will be fought in large part over the health insurance program. The fate of Obamacare may hang in the balance.

"The 2014 election will be the Gettysburg of this struggle—the deciding battle, one way or the other," predicted Robert J. Blendon of Harvard's School of Public Health.

In the current Congress, the Senate's Democratic majority has stopped the Republican-led House of Representatives from defunding or delaying Obamacare's implementation. But if Republicans take control of the Senate next year—a prospect currently rated as a tossup—only Obama's veto will stand in their way.

And even by Election Day in 2016, Obamacare may still be a work in progress.

"If you give it three, four, five years, every experience we have is that public support will be there," Blendon said. "But you have to give it that much time." Meanwhile, Republicans will have every incentive to attack the program's shortcomings.

"The real problem here is not managerial; many programs take years to roll out," he said. "The real issue is political. Programs don't do well if one party doesn't support it and public opinion isn't for it."

As for Obamacare, public opinion has settled into skepticism. A Fox News poll released last week, after the websites' rollout, found that 54 percent of voters favor repealing all or part of the law, while 41 percent want to preserve or expand it—not much different from earlier findings.

The poll found that only 30 percent of voters want to repeal the entire law—but among Republicans, that number swells to 53 percent, and among tea party supporters, 71 percent. That helps explain GOP legislators' opposition.

What could change public attitudes? "There could be movement either way, depending on whether people think the program turns out better or worse than they expected," Blendon said. If more employers drop retirees and spouses from insurance coverage because Obamacare is available, for example, "you could see a huge backlash," he said.

Republicans may have a built-in advantage in that debate: They can blame any bad news about healthcare on Obamacare, whether the program is at fault or not.

"If rates are going up, Republicans will say that's because of Obamacare, even though it's not true," said Mark Mellman, a Democratic pollster. "If companies are cutting back, Republicans will say that's because of Obamacare."

But it will also matter what remedy Republicans propose. In last week's Fox News poll, most voters said they opposed defunding Obamacare—although two-thirds of GOP voters said they supported the idea.

A one-year delay in implementing Obamacare, on the other hand, is a broadly popular idea, supported by 57 percent of all voters, including 80 percent of Republicans.

So don't expect the war over Obamacare to be over any time soon. Instead, expect Republicans of every stripe to continue their guerrilla campaign against the program through the 2014 congressional election, and perhaps the 2016 presidential election as well.

Expect more furious, partisan debate over every step of implementation, with dueling experts from each side.

Expect smart Republicans to focus on demands to delay or cancel the penalties on individuals for failing to sign up, the law's least popular provision. That might sound like a minor change, but it could undermine the program fatally.

The president will continue to insist that Obamacare is "settled law." But a law is only fully settled once both parties accept its permanence, and Obamacare is a long way from there.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Mediocrity vs prosperity

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

We begin to see steady improvements in tourism, the only economic pillar of the CNMI. Simultaneously, we stand at a juncture where we could decide to embrace golden opportunities to move the needle of economic growth forward in prosperity or sink in mediocrity.

If we devolve into *mañana* once more, the wind of competition nearby would simply sap what's left in the wind of our sails.

It's in the palm of our hands. We can do it! A glimpse into the CNMI's boom years shows the benefits of economic prosperity. Slow things may be today, there are improvements in revenue collection thanks to a resurgent tourism industry.

We have to understand that the CNMI isn't the only destination blessed with the triad of the sun, sea, and sand. There are competing destinations nearby such as Guam, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Emirates, and Japan who have put their best foot forward to secure their share of visitors.

Innovation's a must

With this in mind, it is important to understand the dire need for innovation and recalibration of the old ways in order to allow some room to move forward. Innovation is a vital vehicle that drives economic progress and competitiveness. Furthermore, permanent economic improvements can be sustained only by permanent improvements in economic fundamentals. We're a long ways off, thus the need to regroup right here and now.

Hotel rooms are just about maxed out here. It means there's a need to increase room capacity beyond what they are today. That it takes a process—luring investment and ensuring the building of more hotels—makes it imperative that we move forward promptly. Don't despair in that a large ship doesn't turn around quickly either, but it will make its full turn. Let's start turning the wheels.

The idea to establish the casino industry on Saipan in the near-term simply means the proposed measure must be one of depth so crafted to lure international brand hotels. The brands include MGM Grand Las Vegas, Best Western International, Venetian Macao/Las Vegas, among others. It takes one of them setting up shop here to change tourism and lift it to higher grounds. It should translate into stronger economic growth.

Aggressive marketing

This equation requires aggressive marketing of the islands to some 26 million multi-millionaires in Japan and other economically poised lion and tiger countries nearby. The market is the wealthy group supplemented by other categories of visitors. The point is to lift tourism beyond what it is today by luring at least one international brand hotel.

The CNMI must also learn to market its tourism industry in global exhibitions usually held around the Asian region. One was recently held in China but the CNMI lacked marketing representation. Would you believe that even the Lone State of Texas took space and promoted the cowboy tradition, famous smoked beef and pork, and Texas barbecue? We weren't there.

Other than a glitzy hotel and casino, there's also the essence of the people of these islands. A cultural center should be pursued and established in the near-term. I've seen one that looks great and would augment the visitor industry beyond our wildest imaginings. It's a plan that we must push for so that it becomes a major part of our visitor industry. It's an excellent project in terms of the assimilation of our people into the tourism industry.

These are short-term issues we must urgently address to revive tourism and awaken the rather sleepy revenue generation. There are issues of a long-term nature that we must eventually buckle down to discuss in a deliberative fashion.

In either case, we must give ourselves room to revisit issues we've undertaken for purposes of refinement. It's the only way to gauge our progress as we try to revive economic growth. We must do it in order to provide jobs and opportunities for our people.

Illustrating a point

Central Visayas in the Philippines gets a major boost early next year when a U.S.-based aquarium company begins a 15-day exploration of the republic.

Chicago-based Shedd Aquarium ensures its clientele snorkels in the vibrant coral reefs that inspired its Wild Reef Exhibition. It includes visiting island communities that are managing their life-giving reefs for today and tomorrow, and sampling the culture and cuisine of the Philippines.

One of the highlights of the tour will be Apo Island, which Shedd described as one of the oldest and most successful marine protected areas in the Philippines.

"For more than two decades, local fishermen and scientists have worked together to protect and monitor the reefs around the island. The abundance of corals and fishes is staggering, and we will spend all day at the island exploring its rich reefs."

Other highlights of the tour include a boat tour in the waters of Pamilacan Island, where participants can see spinner dolphins, and possibly bottle-nosed dolphins, pilot whales, Risso's dolphins and several species of baleen whales, including the blue whale; Olongo Island, home to one of the largest bird sanctuaries in the Philippines; Donsol, to search for the whale shark, sometimes dubbed the world's largest living fish; and a tour of Albay where Mayon Volcano is located. The Philippines has a lot of other well-prepared destinations outside Manila that offer superb visitor sites and service other than Central Visayas.

Every country is out to lure more visitors. The Emirates and Japan are shooting for 10 million visitors next year. Amidst the growing competition nearby, it pays to reset our button on investments to lure our share of tourists given that tourism is our only economic pillar today. If we devolve into the usual *mañana*, then it's all a long waltz with mediocrity for years to come.

Sequestration must end

By GUS HARGETT
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Congress and the president have an opportunity over the next two weeks to right a wrong enacted two years ago when they saddled the federal government with sequestration.

Sequestration was their clumsy effort to reduce the nation's deficit through automatic, across-the-board cuts to the federal government without regard for individual programs.

Both political parties and the White House said sequester would never come to this, but it has because elected officials couldn't find common ground. And still can't. The loser, of course, is the American people.

While it affected nearly the entire government, the military took the hardest hit. Sequestration removed $43 billion from the Pentagon's coffers in the fiscal year that ended on Sept. 30. This impacted training, which cut into the force's readiness.

Gen. Ray Odierno, the Army chief of staff, has said reduced readiness may mean increased casualties on the battlefield. It is that serious.

We've seen in recent days the worst of our government. The inability of Congress to pass a budget—its most basic obligation to the people—and the resulting shutdown of the federal government is inexcusable.

This has produced hardships for both those who work for the government and must do without paychecks and those who depend on government programs that are not functioning.

Soon, Congress will be asked to increase the debt limit. And it seems like this, too, will be fodder in a political game of one-upmanship and trying to win the news cycle.

But this also presents a real chance for Congress to repair what it has damaged through sequestration. Make no mistake; there will be a deal on the debt ceiling. There has to be, otherwise the nation defaults on its debt. These discussions provide the framework and the urgency also needed to end sequestration before it causes more harm to our military.

There are myriad worthwhile programs that depend on federal funds, including those that educate our children, feed the hungry, and care for the sick and elderly. Each deserves its share of the budget.

But nothing is more critical than national security.

I realize that times are difficult. The nation has fewer dollars and must spend them wisely. So the military must do its part in accepting cuts.

But those cuts should be part of an overall strategy that funds a Total Force—active, Guard and reserve—to a level that will allow that force to protect America from enemies and natural disasters.

I am a National Guardsman. I spent nearly 50 years in that uniform. And I believe this efficient, cost-effective force is a large part of the answer to our fiscal challenges. Let's use that reality to our advantage.

Guardsmen are on duty every day, at home and abroad. In recent months, they have responded to tornadoes in Oklahoma, floods in Colorado, and wildfires in California. They are serving today, tomorrow, and the day after that in the sky above our cities and coastlines. And, they are in Afghanistan.

Sequestration must end.

Sequestration has made it more difficult for the Army and Air Force leadership to use Guardsmen to perform its mandated missions.

Any decision reached by our elected officials should give the National Guard what it needs to respond to disasters both natural and manmade and to serve overseas in the fight for freedom.

But this is not only about the Guard. This is about the total military that must be properly equipped and trained and compensated so that it can keep our nation safe.

I ask the elected members of Congress to do what they have been elected to do—fund the government in a manner that will ensure national security while uncertainty grows in a dangerous world.

Only when the nation is secure can it go about the business of making sure its citizens are educated and fed and allowed to prosper.

So, Congress, gather with your military leaders and design the right strategy for America's security. It will be a mix of active-duty troops, reservists, and Guardsmen.

And then fund that force so that it can do the job for which it has been created. Do it now before the risk becomes even greater.

Don't squander this opportunity. It might be our last.

Retired Maj. Gen. Gus Hargett spent nearly 50 years in the Tennessee National Guard and served as the state's adjutant general for seven years. He is now president of the nearly 45,000-member National Guard Association of the United States, which is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

CLIMATE

From Page 10

worse floods, and less international stability.

So what are we to do with such scary predictions about an enormous global problem? Well, most us of us will turn the page and read about something else—then go to work, pay the bills, and raise our families. In other words, do all the things over which we have some control, and leave global warming to someone else.

The problem is that someone else isn't going to solve this until we demand that they do. There are lots of people who make money off the current way we use energy, and it requires citizen action (and smart incentives) to change things. That means pushing lawmakers to move the country towards cleaner energy, even if it results in us paying a little extra now to avoid a lot extra later. (Note to consumers and tax payers: Hurricane Sandy alone cost you $65 billion. Since research suggests climate change causes stronger storms, think about what the future bills may be.)

It also means rejecting irrational attempts to undermine science with false information. Our elected officials, in particular, have a responsibility to conduct a debate grounded in facts, not just whatever someone happens to type on the Internet.

The good news is that the world has begun to act. Europe has put limits on carbon pollution, as have countries representing one-third of global economic activity. The United States has started limiting greenhouse gas pollution from cars and will soon place limits on power plants as well. Even China has started to test cap-and-trade programs in seven regions. It's not enough yet, but it's a start.

There are good ideas for solving this challenge across the political spectrum. All responsible voices—that is, those that deal in facts—are needed in this debate. But we must move with a sense of urgency. The climate is not going to wait until we're all comfortable with this new reality.

Let's not miss another chance to get serious about this urgent problem.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northeast winds around 10 mph.
▲86° ▼76°

THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲86° ▼76°

FRIDAY
Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲86° ▼78°

SATURDAY
Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲85° ▼78°

SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲86° ▼78°

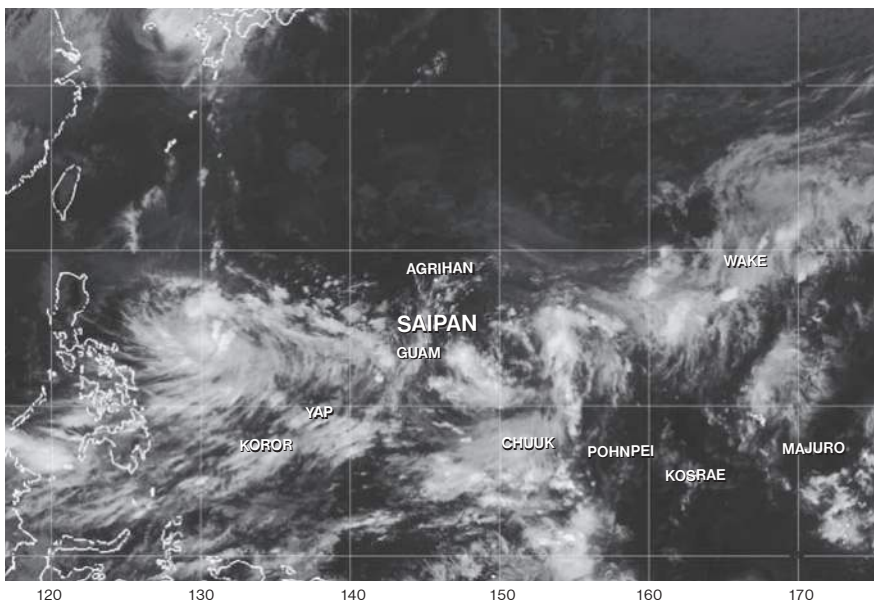
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼74
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60	▼52
Beijing	Sunny	▲75	▼57
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲84	▼78
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼46
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲73	▼56
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼62
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼72
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼50
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲83	▼70
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲60	▼47
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲78	▼67
Rome	Showers	▲72	▼58
Salem	Showers	▲56	▼42
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼55
Seoul	Sunny	▲79	▼59
Tokyo	Windy	▲82	▼71
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼56

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends from 130E at 14N to a circulation west of Guam at 14N134E to another circulation north of Chuuk at 12N151E then continues eastward to end near 12N157E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near Yap, the Marianas and Chuuk within 250 miles of a line from 15N130E to 7N153E and over Koror between 1N and 9N from 130E to 137E. Additional showers and Thunderstorms are found farther north of Chuuk between 12N and 16N from 150E to 158E and also south of Chuuk south of a line from 2N150E to 4N157E. An inverted surface trough stretches northeastward from the circulation north of Chuuk to end near Wake Island at 22N164E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located north of Pohnpei and near Wake Island within 200 miles of a line from 16N160E to 22N169E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating isolated thunderstorms over portions of the Marshall Islands within 100 miles of a line from 13N169E to 4N172E to 1N177E to 2N180. Scattered showers are found east of a line from 11N177E to 6N175E. Low-level convergence south of a large low pressure system well northwest of Wake Island is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east-northeast of Wake Island within 100 miles of a line from 21N170E to 25N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:20 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
12:07 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
5:45 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
10:50 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:08 AM	6:01 PM
Thursday	6:08 AM	6:00 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	5:59 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	5:59 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	5:58 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:49 AM	9:32 PM
Thursday	10:48 AM	10:30 PM
Friday	11:46 AM	11:30 PM
Saturday	12:41 PM	
Sunday	1:32 PM	12:30 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:10pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:45pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5074/PR111	11:20am	4:45pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
0Z604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	10:10am	10:45am	6
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
0Z607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN			
SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
PR110/UA5072	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	7:55am	12:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
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Business

Debt limit overtaking shutdown as US crisis focus

AP

This Sept. 24, 2013 file photo shows a sheet of uncut $100 bills as they make their way through the printing process at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing Western Currency Facility in Fort Worth, Texas

WASHINGTON (AP)—A possible national default loomed closer on Monday as the partial government shutdown lingered, rattling markets in the U.S. and overseas. A gridlocked Congress betrayed little or no urgency toward resolving either of the threats.

Stocks got a case of the jitters on Wall Street, and halfway around the world China stressed the importance for the international economy of raising the U.S. debt limit.

"Safeguarding the debt is of vital importance to the economy of the U.S. and the world," Vice Finance Minister Zhu Guangyao said, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. China holds $1.277 trillion in U.S. Treasury bonds, second only to Japan.

At home, the political rhetoric was unchanged—and generally uncompromising—while a new poll suggested Republicans are paying a heavier price than Democrats for the deadlock.

President Barack Obama said the House should vote immediately on ending the partial closure of the federal establishment. He accused House Speaker John Boehner of refusing to permit the necessary legislation to come to the floor because he "doesn't apparently want to see the ... shutdown end at the moment, unless he's able to extract concessions that don't have anything to do with the budget."

Boehner, in rebuttal, called on Obama to agree to negotiations on changes in the nation's health care overhaul and steps to curb deficits, the principal GOP demands for ending the shutdown and eliminating the threat of default.

"Really, Mr. President. It's time to have that conversation before our economy is put further at risk," the Ohio Republican said in remarks on the House floor.

Obama said he would talk with the Republicans on those topics or virtually any others. But the White House has said repeatedly the president will not negotiate until the government is fully re-opened and the debt limit has been raised to stave off the nation's first-ever default.

White House aide Jason Furman told reporters that if Boehner "needs to have some talking point for his caucus that's consistent with us not negotiating ... that's not adding a bunch of extraneous conditions, of course he's welcome to figure out whatever talking point he wants that helps him sell something."

The current standoff is the latest in a string of clashes over the past three years between Obama and a House Republican majority that has steered to the right with the rise of the tea party.

Most Democrats and many Republicans have assumed the GOP will pay a heavier price for a shutdown than the Democrats, since that was the case in 1996.

And a survey released by the Washington Post-ABC said disapproval of Republicans was measured at 70 percent, up from 63 percent a week earlier. Disapproval of Obama's role was statistically unchanged at 51 percent.

In the Senate, where majority Democrats forced approval of legislation before the shutdown aimed at preventing it, officials said Majority Leader Harry Reid was drafting a bill to raise the current $16.7 trillion debt ceiling before the Oct. 17 deadline when Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew has said the government will reach its borrowing limit.

The measure would allow the government to meet its borrowing needs through the 2014 elections, officials said, although few details were immediately available.

New $100 bills start circulating Tuesday

WASHINGTON (AP)—The new $100 bill, with an array of high-tech features designed to thwart counterfeiters, will get its coming out party on Tuesday, partial government shutdown or not.

The Federal Reserve, which has not been affected by the shutdown, will have armored trucks rolling from its regional banks around the country headed to banks, savings and loans and other financial institutions with the new C-notes.

The bills took more than a decade to develop and the introduction was plagued by production problems that set back the rollout by 2 1/2 years. But officials say the problems have now been fixed.

Some bank customers could start seeing the new bills by Tuesday afternoon depending on how close their bank is to a regional Fed facility.

"We have 3.5 billion of these notes which we think will be more than ample to meet domestic and international demands," said Sonja Danburg, program manager for U.S. currency education at the Fed.

The bill redesign, the first for the $100 bill since March 1996, will still have Benjamin Franklin on the front and Philadelphia's Independence Hall on the back. It will also have a number of new features that will definitely turn heads.

There is a disappearing Liberty Bell in an ink well and a bright blue three-dimensional security ribbon with images that move in the opposite direction from the way the bill is being tilted.

"The 3-D security ribbon is magic. It is made up of hundreds of thousands of micro-lenses in each note," said Larry Felix, the director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. "This is the most complex note the United States has ever produced."

The $100 bill is the last bill to get a make-over in a process that began in 2003 with the $20 bill. The government redesigned the greenbacks with subtle colors and other security features to make it harder for counterfeiters. The $100 bill, which is the most commonly counterfeited note outside of the United States, was redesigned with even more complex security features.

But the government ran into troubles when 1 billion of the first bills were found in 2010 to have unwanted creases. There was later a problem with ink smearing that further delayed introduction of the new notes, which were initially scheduled to be introduced in February 2011. Felix said the bureau is now confident it has resolved the various production issues.

Officials stressed that the $900 billion worth of $100 bills currently in circulation will remain good and will only be gradually phased out as worn-out bills are returned to Fed facilities. The $100 bill is the largest U.S. denomination in circulation and has the longest life at 15 years. The $1 bill lasts 5.9 years.

The new $100 bills will have one old feature. The signature on the bills will be that of former Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner. The signature of current Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew, who has been teased by President Barack Obama for his loopy handwriting, will start appearing once the current supply of new bills has been put into circulation.

Budget fight offers crash course on Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—If majorities in both the House and Senate would vote to reopen the government with no strings attached, or vote to repeal the new health care law's sales tax on heart pacemakers and MRI machines, then why isn't that happening?

The rancorous budget fight offers a crash course in the arcane ways and language of Congress that sometimes defy logic. The stalemate also has cast a spotlight on the institutional power of two men—House Speaker John Boehner and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid—and whether they can act unilaterally as their political foes insist.

"Speaker Boehner, just vote," Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Sunday in insisting that the Republican leader has the votes in the House to pass a straightforward emergency spending bill with no conditions. Boehner says he lacks the votes in the House, certainly not the majority of his GOP caucus.

On the other side, Republicans insist that Reid is the obstructionist and cite is refusal to negotiate anything until the government reopens.

Here's a look at what Washington is saying:

Q: Democrats are pressing Boehner to bring up a "clean" CR for a vote? What is it?

A: CR stands for continuing resolution, a temporary measure that continues funding government agencies and programs at the start of the fiscal year on Oct. 1. The measure is necessary because Congress has failed to pass appropriations bills for each of the agencies and departments.

A so-called "clean" CR means a bill without conditions. House Republicans have repeatedly added provisions that would defund or roll back parts of the 3-year-old health care law, ignoring President Barack Obama's veto threats.

The Democratic-led Senate has rejected those versions, sending back a clean bill without health care limitations.

One measure would have repealed the medical device tax. Even though that step has bipartisan support, Democrats reject any move to change the health care law until the Republicans agree to vote on a bill re-opening the government.

Neither bill provides enough time to resolve long-standing Democratic and Republican budget differences and sort out overall government spending. The House version would keep the government running until Dec. 15; the Senate version until Nov. 15.

Q: Could Boehner just let the House vote on the temporary spending bill with no strings attached?

A: Yes, to the extent that the rules of the House allow the speaker to set the agenda. Politically, though, a vote could cause a revolt by conservative Republican lawmakers and cost Boehner his top job. A vocal number of House Republicans pressured Boehner to link passage of a bill to keep the government running to changes in the health care law they deride as "Obamacare."

Boehner insists that Obama and Democrats must negotiate.

Q: Democrats say they could prevail through a discharge petition. What's that and would it work?

A: This is one way of bypassing the speaker and getting a vote, though it requires several time-consuming steps. First, 217 members—one more than half the House's current membership of 432—have to sign a petition. A motion to consider the temporary spending bill would then be placed on the calendar, but it can't be acted on for at least seven days. Any lawmaker can then call it up but only on the second or fourth Monday of the month. The motion is debated and if the House passes it, then lawmakers would consider and vote on the spending bill.

Currently there are 232 Republicans, 200 Democrats and three vacancies in the House. All 200 Democrats would sign the petition, but Democrats aren't confident 17 Republicans would join them, even though some two dozen GOP members have signaled they support a clean spending bill.

Signing a discharge petition would be a breach of loyalty for Republicans. Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., one of the most outspoken critics of pairing the health care conditions with the spending bill, said Sunday he wouldn't sign a discharge petition. "It's not going to go anywhere," he said.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
14,936.24	1,676.12	3,770.38
-136.34	-14.38	-37.38
-0.90%	-0.85%	+0.98%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0595	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7540	Philippine Peso	43.1250
British Pound	0.6220	Indian Rupee	61.6425	Singapore Dollar	1.2493
Canadian Dollar	1.0327	Indonesian Rupiah	11,515.0	South Korean Won	1,074.0
Chinese Yuan	6.1213	Japanese Yen	97.0850	Swiss Franc	0.9044
Euro	0.7370	Malaysian Ringgit	3.2025	Taiwan Dollar	29.3660
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2037	Thailand Baht	31.3700

Nation

Health law glitches: fatal or fleeting?

WASHINGTON (AP)—The glitch-ridden rollout of President Barack Obama's health care law has opponents crowing: "Told you so!" and insisting it should be paused, if not scrapped.

But others, including insurance companies, say there's still enough time to fix the online enrollment system before uninsured Americans start getting coverage on Jan. 1.

After emergency repairs over the weekend, consumers in different parts of the country Monday continued to report delays on healthcare.gov, as well as problems setting up security questions for their accounts. The administration says the site's crowded electronic "waiting room" is thinning out. Still, officials announced it will be down again for a few hours starting at 1 a.m. Tuesday for more upgrades and fixes.

Despite the confusion, the insurance industry has held off public criticism. Alarmed that only a trickle of customers got through initially, insurers now say enrollments are starting to come in and they expect things to improve.

The last major federal health care launch—the Medicare prescription program in 2006—also had big startup problems. Government leaders who oversaw it say things could look very different in a couple of months for Obama's law if the administration manages to get a grip on the situation.

"There wasn't enough time for testing, so the dress rehearsal became opening night," said Michael Leavitt, who as President George W. Bush's top health official, was responsible for the Medicare drug plan debut.

"The moment of truth is going to come in the middle of November, when people want to see the real deal," said Leavitt, who currently heads a consulting firm that advises states on the health overhaul. "If they don't have this running smoothly by then, it's going to be a bigger problem than we're seeing today."

The insurance industry is calling for patience. "This is a marathon and not a sprint," Karen Ignagni, head of the trade group America's Health Insurance Plans, said in a statement. "We anticipate enrollments will continue to increase in the days and weeks ahead."

Obama's law—also known as the Affordable Care Act—was designed to provide insurance for people who don't have access to coverage on the job. Middle-class uninsured people can buy a government-subsidized private plan, while the poor and near-poor will be steered to Medicaid in states that agree to expand the safety net program. The online insurance markets were envisioned as the 21st century portal to an overhauled system.

2 Americans, German-American win Nobel in medicine

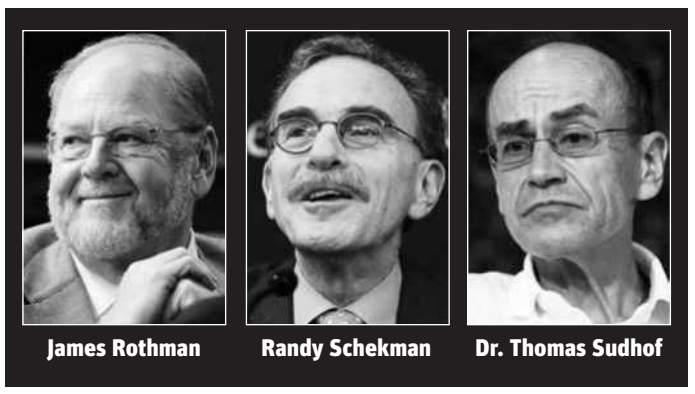
NEW YORK (AP)—Two Americans and a German-American won the Nobel Prize in medicine Monday for illuminating how tiny bubbles inside cells shuttle key substances around like a vast and highly efficient fleet of vans, delivering the right cargo to the right place at the right time.

Scientists believe the research could someday lead to new medicines for epilepsy, diabetes and other conditions.

The work has already helped doctors diagnose a severe form of epilepsy and immune deficiency diseases in children. It has also aided research into the brain and many neurological diseases, and opened the door for biotech companies to make yeast pump out large quantities of useful proteins like insulin.

The $1.2 million prize will be shared by James Rothman, 62, of Yale University, Randy Schekman, 64, of the University of California, Berkeley, and Dr. Thomas Sudhof, 57, of Stanford University.

They unlocked the mysteries of the cell's internal transport system, which relies on bubble-like structures called vesicles to deliver substances the cell needs. The fleet of vesicles is sort of the FedEx of the cellular world.



James Rothman | Randy Schekman | Dr. Thomas Sudhof

When a pancreas cell releases insulin or one brain cell sends out a chemical messenger to talk to a neighboring one, for example, the vesicles have to deliver those substances to the right places on the cell surface. They also ferry cargo between different parts of a cell.

"Imagine hundreds of thousands of people who are traveling around hundreds of miles of streets; how are they going to find the right way? Where will the bus stop and open its doors so that people can get out?" Nobel committee secretary Goran Hansson said. "There are similar problems in the cell."

Jeremy Berg, former director of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences in Bethesda, Md., said the prize was long overdue and widely expected because the work was "so fundamental and has driven so much other research."

Berg, who now directs the Institute for Personalized Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh, said the work provided the intellectual framework that scientists use to study how brain cells communicate and how other cells release hormones.

So the work has indirectly affected research into virtually all neurological disease as well as other diseases, he said.

In the 1970s, Schekman discovered a set of genes that were required for vesicle transport. Rothman revealed in the 1980s and '90s how vesicles delivered their cargo to the right places. Also in the '90s, Sudhof identified the machinery that controls when vesicles release chemical messengers from one brain cell that let it communicate with another.

"This is not an overnight thing. Most of it has been accomplished and developed over many years, if not decades," Rothman said.

Rothman said he lost grant money for the work recognized by the Nobel committee, but he will now reapply, hoping the prize will make a difference in receiving funding.

Nobel Prize for medicine

James Rothman and Randy Schekman (both U.S.) and Thomas Sudhof (Germany) *won the 2013 Nobel prize for medicine for their work on how cells transport material.*

Recent recipients

2012 Sir John Gurdon ***(U.K.)*** and Shinya Yamanaka ***(Japan)***

2011 Bruce Butler, **U.S.**, Jules Hoffman, **Luxembourg and France,** and Ralph Steinman, **Canada and U.S.**

2010 Robert Edwards, **U.K.**

2009 Elizabeth H. Blackburn, Jack W. Szostak, both **U.S.**

2008 Harald zur Hausen, **Ger.,** Francoise Barre-Sinoussi and Luc Montagnier, both **France**

2007 Mario R. Capecchi and Oliver Smithies, **U.S.**; Sir Martin J. Evans, **U.K.**

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Source: The Nobel Foundation

AP

This image released by ModernTribe.com shows an American Gothic Thanksgivukkah Poster celebrating Thanksgiving and Hanukkah.

Gobble tov! American Jews ready for Thanksgivukkah

NEW YORK (AP)—It's a turkey. It's a menorah. It's Thanksgivukkah!

An extremely rare convergence this year of Thanksgiving and the start of Hanukkah has created a frenzy of Talmudic proportions.

There's the number crunching: The last time it happened was 1888, or at least the last time since Thanksgiving was declared a federal holiday by President Lincoln, and the next time may have Jews lighting their candles from spaceships 79,043 years from now, by one calculation.

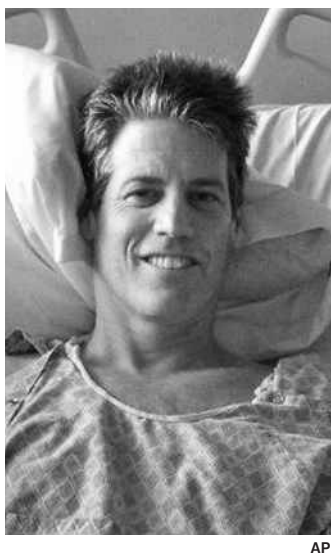
There's the commerce: A 9-year-old New York boy invented the "Menurkey" and raised more than $48,000 on Kickstarter for his already trademarked, Turkey-shaped menorah. Woodstock-inspired T-shirts have a turkey perched on the neck of a guitar and implore "8 Days of Light, Liberty & Latkes." The creators nabbed the trademark to "Thanksgivukkah."

Songs have popped up with lyrics like these from "The Ballad of Thanksgivukkah": "Imagine Judah Maccabee, sitting down to roast turkey and passing the potatoes to Squanto ..." Rabbi David Paskin, the song's co-writer and co-head of the Kehillah Schechter Academy in Norwood, Mass., proudly declares his the Jewish day school nearest Plymouth Rock.

Let's not forget the food mash-ups commemorating the staying power of the Pilgrims and the fighting prowess of the Jews, along with the miracle of one night's oil lasting eight days. Pumpkin latkes, apple-cranberry sauce and deep-fried turkey, anyone?

"It's pretty amazing to me that in this country we can have rich secular and rich religious celebrations and that those of us who live in both worlds can find moments when they meet and can really celebrate that convergence. There are a lot of places in the world where we would not be able to do that," Paskin said.

Bitten Calif. surfer says shark came from nowhere



AP

This Monday, Oct. 7, 2013, photo provided by Sunni Scrivner shows her husband Jay Scrivner at St. Joseph Hospital in Eureka, Calif.

EUREKA, Calif. (AP)—It was a perfect day for surfing. Except for the shark.

Jay Scrivner, a 45-year-old college English teacher, was waiting for waves off the Northern California coast near his hometown of Eureka on Sunday morning after surfing for about two hours when a great white he estimated at about 8-to-9 feet long bit his thigh and board.

"Sometimes you have a feeling that the water is weird," Scrivner told The Associated Press in a phone interview from his room at Eureka's St. Joseph Hospital on Monday afternoon. "But everyone was just so happy. I was lying on my board, paddling around just waiting for a wave set."

Scrivner regularly surfs at the spot near Humboldt Bay known as the Samoa Peninsula. He was aware that another surfer, Scott Stephens, survived a shark attack in the same area last year.

Scriver said that "out of nowhere" he saw the shark's teeth and nose. After he was bitten, he took a swing at the great white and let out what a friend nearby described as a primordial yell.

"I couldn't believe it happened," Scrivner said. "When I turned away from the shark, I said, `Did I really get bit?' Your mind doesn't believe it."

Scrivner said he did a quick inventory of his body parts and found everything was intact. A friend encouraged him to keep paddling toward the beach.

Once there, friends and fellow surfers applied pressure on the wound and tied a T-shirt to stop the bleeding.

"What's strange about it was how amazing the morning was, how everyone was having a good time, and then the dichotomy," he said.

Scrivner was alert and conscious on shore when rescue crews got to the scene around 8:45 a.m., Samoa Peninsula Fire District Chief Dale Unea said.

Scrivner, an English lecturer at College of the Redwoods who is married with two young children, said the bite wound on his left thigh did not sever an artery or damage any tendons. There was some muscle tissue damage that required about 30 stitches, but he was expected to fully recover.

Asia

APEC evicts HK journalists who heckled Aquino

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—A journalist association is protesting the treatment of a group of Hong Kong reporters covering a regional economic summit in Indonesia, saying they were treated like a serious security threat by the organizers who barred them from the event after they shouted questions at Philippine President Benigno Aquino III.

The journalists from Now TV, Radio Television Hong Kong and Commercial Radio asked Aquino as he walked by them Sunday at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Bali if he would meet Hong Kong leader Leung Chun-ying and apologize to the families of victims killed three years ago while vacationing in Manila.

Their questions were "placed on the same level as explosives and other fatal vice by both the Indonesian and Filipino authorities," the Hong Kong Journalists Association said in a statement on its website.

The reporters were banned from the event on Sunday. The association said they were placed under surveillance and stopped from entering their hotels a day later.

"This development borders on the absolutely ludicrous and the so-called security threat concern is totally unacceptable," it said. Another group, the Hong Kong News Executives' Association, said they were shocked by APEC's actions and had complained to the organizers about lack of respect for press freedom.

Col. Bernardus Robert, spokesman of the APEC Joint Security Command, declined to provide details about the journalists but said there was a zero tolerance policy for any threats.

Aquino

"We will not tolerate any possibility, even small, of threats against the heads of state and the implementation of APEC Summit should not be disturbed," he said.

The journalists approached Aquino on the sidelines of the meeting.

"Will you apologize to Hong Kong people for their real tragedy?" a woman reporter asked, TV footage showed. "Will you give an answer? It has been three years," she said.

"So you are ignoring Hong Kong people, right?" another reporter asked.

Aquino did not reply to their questions. Now TV footage showed an APEC staff member telling the reporters: "You ambushed one of our visitors."

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said China supported the Hong Kong government's efforts to remain in close contact with the Philippines about the hostage incident.

"We urge the Philippine government to pay high attention to the requirements and concerns of the families of the victims, take concrete and effective measures and work out a proper solution as soon as possible," Hua said in a statement released late Monday.

In 2010, eight Hong Kong tourists and their guide were killed after being held hostage for a day inside a tour bus by a dismissed Manila police officer. The crisis ended with a botched police rescue.

Aquino has expressed regret over the bloodshed but repeatedly said he considers the issue closed and that it was not appropriate for the Philippine government to apologize because the state was not responsible. However, families of the victims have continued to press for an official apology and compensation.

The Now TV footage showed another APEC staff member telling one of the reporters: "You know that the decency (includes) not screaming. You do understand that?"

The reporter is heard answering, "I am asking, I'm not screaming, OK?" The staffer went on to tell him, "Now out!"

Gatot S. Dewabroto, a member of Indonesia's APEC Organizing Committee, said the credentials of nine Hong Kong journalists were revoked for behavior that was "excessive, disrespectful and disturbing the event."

US still expects to sign pact with Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration is optimistic that a U.S.-Afghan agreement over the future role of American troops in the country can be finalized in the next few weeks despite two main sticking points and President Hamid Karzai's emotional outburst Monday alleging that the U.S. and NATO repeatedly violate Afghan sovereignty.

Nearly a year of negotiations have so far failed to yield a deal and it is still possible that the two sides will never reach an agreement.

The U.S. wants to keep as many as 10,000 troops in Afghanistan to go after the remnants of al-Qaida, but if no agreement is signed, all U.S. troops would have to leave by Dec. 31, 2014.

Roughly 95 percent of the dozen-page agreement is complete and the rest is penciled in until the two sides can agree on language, according to an Obama administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to speak publicly about the negotiations.

U.S. and Afghan negotiators held their latest round of talks on Monday, focusing their attention on two sticking points—both tough issues that remain unresolved.

Afghanistan wants American guarantees against future foreign intervention, a veiled reference to neighboring Pakistan. Afghanistan accuses its neighbor of harboring the Taliban and other extremists who enter Afghanistan and then cross back into Pakistan where they cannot be attacked by Afghan or U.S.-led international forces.

The second sticking point is about the role and conduct of the counterterrorism force the U.S. wants to leave behind.

"The United States and its allies, NATO, continue to demand even after signing the BSA (bilateral security agreement) they will have the freedom to attack our people, our villages," Karzai said. "The Afghan people will never allow it."

Karzai's outburst came in response to a question about a NATO airstrike on Oct. 5 in Nangarhar province, near an airport used by U.S.-led international military coalition forces. The coalition, which has opened an investigation into the incident, said its forces struck insurgents trying to attack the base and that no civilians were harmed. The Karzai government claims five civilians were killed.

Maldives pro-opposition TV station set on fire

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Masked men broke into a pro-opposition television station in the capital of the Maldives early Monday and set fire that gutted the studio, according to security camera footage and its owner, in the second attack there in two years.

Security camera recordings show six men with their faces covered breaking open the lock of a metal door with what look like iron bars. Then they kick open a wooden door and enter the studio. Then they pour gasoline and after other men have gone one man sets fire and runs down the stair case.

A shorter clip shows a man wearing black mask pouring gasoline on a table with four computers and seconds later fire engulfs the room.

Akram Kamaludeen, owner of Rajje TV said the men on motorbikes threatened and chased away a security guard before the attack. Other offices in the building in Male were also damaged.

Kamaludeen said there was no evidence that pointed to a suspect. He said President Mohamed Waheed Hassan's government and his allies have been upset with the station's coverage.

The Maldives is facing political turmoil, with a court postponing a presidential runoff election that was expected to be favorable to MDP candidate, former President Mohamed Nasheed.

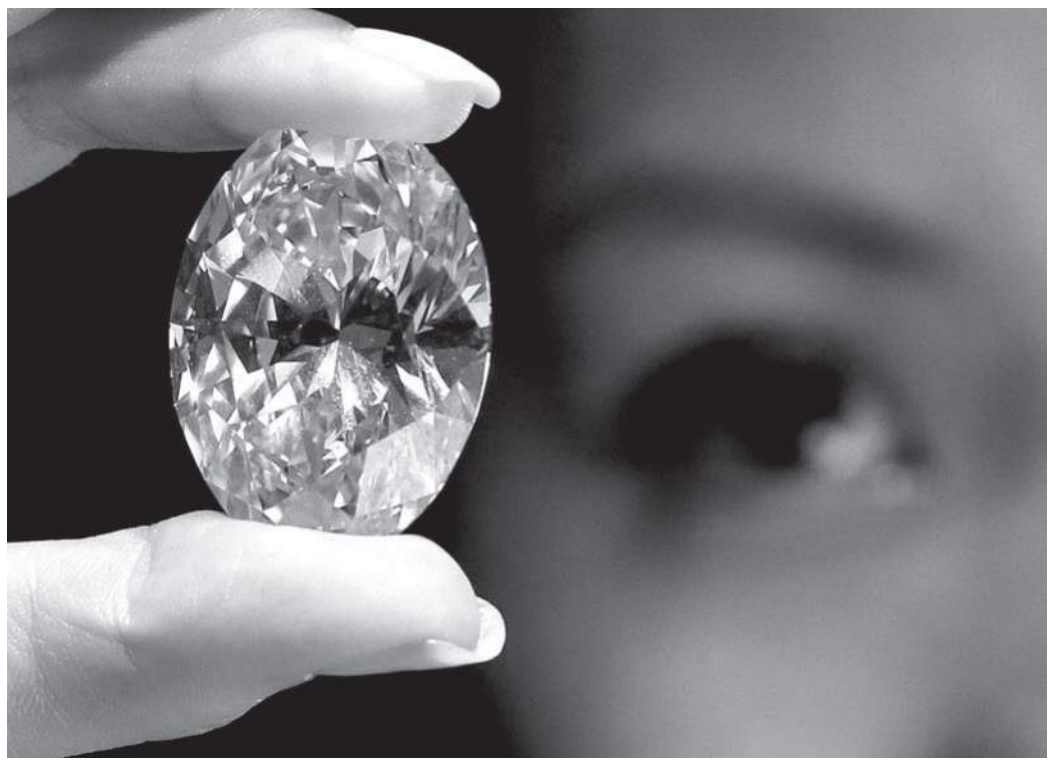
Last year, attackers broke into the TV station's building and cut cables, disrupting its broadcasts.

The station backs the opposition Maldivian Democratic Party, and authorities have barred it from covering government events.

"This is a dark day for press freedom in the Maldives," said Kamaludeen, saying police did not protect the station despite prior threats and has not investigating the previous attack. Police were patrolling the neighborhood at the time of the attack and are investigating how the group broke in, said police spokesman Hassan Hanif.

"This criminal act is a direct blow to freedom of information and we deplore the attitude of the police, who failed to do what was necessary to prevent the attack although the head of TV station requested protection a few hours before it took place," Paris-based press freedom group Reporters Without Borders said in a statement.

White diamond fetches record $30.6M at HK auction


AP

In this Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013 file photo, a 118.28-carat white diamond is displayed by a model at a press preview at Sotheby's auction house in Hong Kong.

HONG KONG (AP)—A white diamond the size of a small egg sold for $30.6 million at a Hong Kong auction, although a blue diamond that was the night's other highlight with a $19 million estimate failed to sell.

Two phone bidders competed for the 118-carat white diamond from Africa in six minutes of measured bidding until one dropped out in the Sotheby's jewelry auction Monday night, part of fall sales of art and collectibles by the firm and its rivals.

The twice-yearly ritual in the southern Chinese city draws wealthy collectors from mainland China and other Asian countries and has made the city one of the world's busiest auction hubs.

The "flawless" white oval diamond, mined and cut two years ago, was hammered down for 212 million Hong Kong dollars ($27.3 million), just under the low end of the $28 million to $35 million estimate range set by Sotheby's. Total price including commission came to $30.6 million.

That was more than the previous record of $26.7 million for a white diamond set in May at Christie's in Geneva.

The stone, which weighed 299 carats when it was found in the rough in 2011, is the largest and most significant such diamond graded by the Gemological Institute of America. Sotheby's says it was discovered in southern Africa but won't name the country because the seller wishes to remain anonymous.

The auction's other highlight, a 7.6-carat flawless, round, vivid blue diamond which had an estimate of $19 million, failed to reach its reserve price.

The two gems were among 330 lots of rare jewelry that fetched a total of $95 million, $15 million less than expected.

"Hong Kong has in the last few years pulled itself up alongside Geneva and New York as one of the three major selling centers at auction" for diamonds, said Quek Chin Yeow, deputy chairman of Sotheby's Asia and an international diamond expert.

But he added that the results should not be taken as an indicator of how wealthy Asians are being affected by economic trends such as China's slowdown. That's because such stratospheric prices can only be afforded by the super rich, who he said are mostly immune from such fluctuations.

The world record price for a jewel at auction was set in 2010, when London jeweler Laurence Graff paid $46 million for a "fancy intense pink" diamond weighing 24.8 carats.

That record could be blown away in November, when Sotheby's puts a pink 59.60-carat diamond on the block that's expected to fetch more than $60 million in Geneva.

World

Targets of US raids planned terrorism in Kenya

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—U.S. interrogators headed to an American warship in the Mediterranean to question a suspected Libyan al-Qaida operative linked to the bombings of U.S. embassies in Africa, as new details emerged Monday about plots planned by a Kenyan militant who escaped a U.S. raid in Somalia.

The two operations, thousands of miles apart in Africa and approved by President Barack Obama, signaled an American readiness to go after militants in nations where authorities are unable to do so, even years later.

The suspect captured in Tripoli is under U.S. federal indictment but was being held in military custody aboard the USS San Antonio in international waters—detained under the laws of war as an enemy combatant.

A computer expert known as Abu Anas al-Libi, he is accused of using an early-generation Apple computer to assemble surveillance photographs in Nairobi ahead of the deadly 1998 bombing of the U.S. Embassy, according to a former U.S. law enforcement official.

The surveillance information was presented to Osama bin Laden, who approved the bombing, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak about the case.

Meanwhile, a Kenyan intelligence report asserted the country had foiled attacks plotted by Abdulkadir Mohamed Abdulkadir, the Kenyan militant who eluded capture by a team of U.S. Navy SEALs in a predawn raid in Somalia on Saturday. Also known as Ikrima, he was identified as the lead planner of a plot by the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab militant group targeting Kenya's parliament building and the United Nations office in Nairobi in 2011 and 2012.

The report by Kenya's National Intelligence Service, which was leaked to The Associated Press and other media in the wake of the Sept. 21 terror attack on Nairobi's Westgate Mall that killed more than 60 people, lists Samantha Lewthwaite—a Briton dubbed the "White Widow"—as one of several "key actors" in the plot, which also targeted Kenyan military installations and top Kenyan political and security officials.

Lewthwaite, who was married to one of the suicide bombers in the 2005 attack on London's transit system, escaped capture when she produced a fraudulently obtained South African passport in another person's name. Late last month, Interpol, acting on a request from Kenya, issued an arrest warrant for Lewthwaite.

The report makes no mention of Abdulkadir in relation to the Nairobi mall attack, though in an entry dated exactly one year before the start of the four-day siege, it said al-Shabab operatives in Nairobi were planning to mount "suicide attacks on an undisclosed date, targeting Westgate Mall and Holy Family Basilica."

Frank Cilluffo, director of George Washington University's Homeland Security Policy Institute, said the Navy SEALs operation in Somalia underscores the threat posed by the convergence of insurgent groups, particularly al-Shabab and the Yemen-based al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula.

Italy divers find 'wall' of bodies in migrant ship

LAMPEDUSA, Italy (AP)—Deep sea divers "unpacked a wall of people" from the hull of a smuggler's trawler on the sea floor near this Italian island on Monday, gingerly untangling the dead would-be migrants in the latest and most painstaking phase of a recovery operation following the ship's fiery capsizing.

It was the first time the divers had been able to reach the hull, and authorities said 38 more bodies were recovered, raising the death toll from last Thursday's tragedy to 232. Scores more are believed missing; most, if not all, were Eritreans trying to reach Europe in search of asylum and a better life.

"They unpacked a wall of people," said Navy Capt. Paolo Trucco of the deep sea specialists. The bodies "were so entwined, one with the other, it is indescribable. They were so trapped they were difficult to pull out."

Deep sea divers in their weighted suits and sturdy port-holed helmets were able to spend up to 30 minutes at a time at the site of the wreck 47 meters (154 feet) below the surface—much more than a scuba diver's typical seven to 10 minutes at that depth.

This allowed them to remove debris that was still floating around inside narrow passage ways to reach the vessel's hull. "Mattresses, blankets, stairs. Anything that would float. Imagine if you put a house in a centrifuge and you see what winds up in the air. That is what happened," Trucco said.

Diver Marco Presti said the bodies were packed together when the ship capsized, and he and his colleagues had to pull each out by the arms. "One diver after the other, we passed them from one to the other, and placed them on the stern of the boat," he said.

Coast Guard Capt. Filippo Marini estimated it would take two more days to complete the search and recovery mission.

Only 155 of the migrants survived the fiery shipwreck. Survivors have said there were at least 500 people aboard the 18-meter-long (59-foot) boat when it sank.

Diver Riccardo Nobile, who did multiple dives on Sunday when 83 bodies were recovered in easier to reach areas, said he waited for more than an hour among the corpses on a recovery boat as other divers took their turns. Divers from the Navy, Coast Guard, Carabinieri military police and the fire department have done rotations.

"It was difficult to look straight at their faces, to see their wounds, see their tormented expressions, their outstretched arms," Nobile said. "It was extremely difficult. But this is our job."

The ship had arrived within sight of Lampedusa, a tiny island that is Italy's southernmost point, after two days of sailing from Libya when a fire set to draw the attention of potential rescuers sparked a panic on board, leading the vessel to capsize.

Post-coup Egypt gripped by nationalist fervor

AP

Egyptian security forces and civilians detain a supporter of ousted Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi near Ramsis Square, Cairo, Egypt.

CAIRO (AP)—While riots turned the neighborhoods of Cairo into deadly battlegrounds this weekend, Egypt's most powerful man—the head of the armed forces—enjoyed a star-studded show.

In a sports stadium, celebrities and pop singers lavished praise on the military in a televised extravaganza complete with dancers and an elaborate fireworks display.

The scene crystalized Egypt's situation since the July 3 coup that ousted the country's first freely elected president, Mohammed Morsi, and ended a year of rule by Islamists.

The new leadership has seemingly taken a two-pronged approach to building the future: On one hand, it pumps up a pro-military, nationalist fervor, while on the other it tries to crush Morsi's Islamist supporters and his Muslim Brotherhood. So far, the result has led to more turmoil.

The scenario raises doubts about whether Egypt can progress toward the democracy that those who supported Morsi's ouster say they want to achieve—or whether the leaders can tackle pressing issues like the damaged economy. Repeated bouts of violence since July have only worsened the slump in the vital tourism industry, amid high unemployment, low productivity and steep price increases.

"It is a cycle of violence at the moment from which there is no way out in the near term," said Michael W. Hanna, a Middle East expert from New York's Century Foundation.

"Where Egypt is now is where Egypt will be for a long time," he said.

A national holiday on Sunday commemorating the 1973 Mideast war was an occasion for authorities to further stoke the fervor for the military, which media and government officials have elevated to near-celestial status in their rhetoric.

Egypt attacks

Egyptian security forces have been targeted in a wave of attacks in Egypt.

Recent attacks

- At least five soldiers killed outside Ismailiya at a checkpoint near Suez Canal
- Five killed, 40 injuried in car bomb attack in el-Tor
- Rocket-propelled grenade at a state-owned satellite station in southern Cairo

Source: ESRI, BBC

© 2013 MCT

Greeks hope to save ancient road on subway project site

THESSALONIKI, Greece (AP)—When a brand-new subway system hits an ancient road, surely something has to give. But in one northern Greek city, archaeologists are fighting to combine the two, against government plans to remove and display elsewhere a large section of an ancient Roman thoroughfare found on a planned subway station.

Some 200 people, including many state-employed archaeologists, on Monday formed a chain round the central Thessaloniki site, beating drums and holding a banner reading "Culture is not business."

The protest was organized by the Association of Greek Archaeologists, which wants the metro station re-designed to incorporate the ancient remains and has raised more than 12,000 signatures in an online petition to preserve the road.

The 76-meter- (250-foot) long and 7.5-meter-(25-foot) wide stretch of road—a junction of the city's main road with a smaller street—mostly dates to the 4th century, with 6th century additions. Archaeologists also unearthed the remains of a row of shops, including many jewelers' workshops, a collapsed monumental stone arch, a sewage conduit and water pipes running parallel to the road.

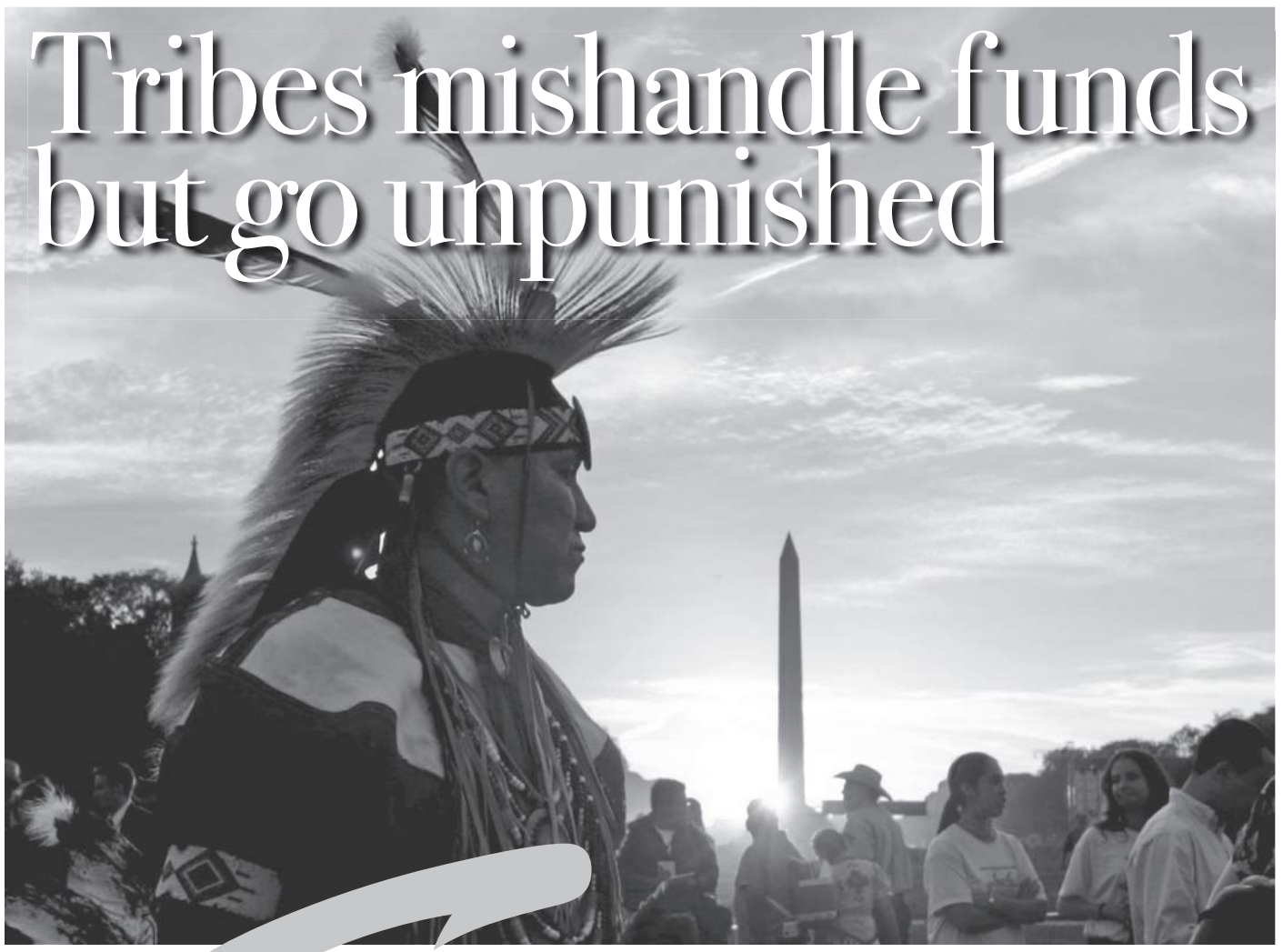
The state-controlled Attiko Metro, which is overseeing work to build Thessaloniki's subway system, has argued that it would be extremely costly and time-consuming to preserve the entire remains in the metro station.

But archaeologist Aristotelis Mentzos told The Associated Press that it was essential to preserve such a chunk of Thessaloniki's past in its original position.

"It is important for the city that relics of its history be incorporated in its living fabric, the metro network," said Mentzos, a professor at the University of Thessaloniki. "They will draw visitors and city dwellers, but at the same time the city must not be completely alienated from its past."

Focus

Tribes mishandle funds but go unpunished



AP

In this Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2004 photo, a member of the Northern Arapaho Tribe who lives on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming, attends the festivities on the National Mall for the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington. The Washington Monument is in the background.

By JUSTIN PRITCHARD and P. SOLOMON BANDA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ETHETE, Wyo. (AP)—American Indian tribes have been caught misappropriating tens of millions of taxpayer dollars, according to internal tribal audits and other documents. But federal authorities do little about it—due to a lack of oversight, resources or political will.

The result? Poor tribes like the Northern Arapaho of Wyoming suffer.

One Arapaho manager pocketed money meant to buy meals for tribal elders. Another used funds from the reservation's diabetes program to subsidize personal shopping trips. And other members plundered the tribal welfare fund, then gambled the money away at one of the tribe's casinos.

Altogether, employees drained at least a half-million dollars from the coffers of a tribe whose members have a median household income of about $16,000 a year.

Federal agencies questioned millions more dollars the Northern Arapaho government spent, but decided not to recover any of the money—and even increased funding to the tribe.

The Wyoming tribe is hardly unique.

An Associated Press review of summaries of audits shows that serious concerns were consistently raised about 124 of 551 tribal governments, schools or housing authorities that received at least 10 years of substantial federal funds since 1997.

Fraud and theft occur across the range of nonprofits and local governments that get federal money. But tribes are five times as likely as other recipients of federal funds to have "material weaknesses" that create an opportunity for abuses, according to the review. Overall, 1 in 4 audits concluded that tribal governments, schools or housing authorities had a material weakness in their federally funded programs; the rate was 1 in 20 for nontribal programs.

Thousands of pages of audits and dozens of reports by federal investigators, obtained by the AP under the Freedom of Information Act, show evidence of embezzlement, paychecks for do-nothing jobs and employees who over-billed hours and expenses. The audits, conducted by private firms, are required of tribes that spend more than $500,000 in federal funds annually.

Agencies often cannot legally cut funding because of treaties, Supreme Court decisions and acts of Congress, and they frequently refuse to take control of failing programs.

"It's basically a reluctance to take on tribes. The Department of the Interior bends over backwards to be their friends," said Earl Devaney, the former inspector general at the department that houses the bureaus of Indian Affairs and Indian Education. "It's `make nice,' and what you don't know, you don't know."

Many amounts were relatively small. But there are so many instances of abuses that the total was substantial.

Tribal council members in Northern California used federal grants to pay their utility bills and mortgages. A Nebraska tribe spent health clinic money on horses and ATVs. An environmental supervisor with a Washington tribe received $16,000 for mileage and other charges he either exaggerated or never incurred. A tribal housing authority in Nevada sprang for a 25-night, $6,500 retreat at a resort in South Lake Tahoe, Calif.

AP IMPACT

Among grant programs with a significant track record in a government database of audits, tribes ran 16 of the 20 with the highest rates of rule-breaking. Auditors flagged welfare grants to tribes, for example, 39 percent of the time. Most prominent were programs funded by Interior's bureaus of Indian Affairs and Indian Education and the Indian Health Service, under the Department of Health and Human Services.

Many findings by auditors suggest mismanagement, not theft or fraud.

One barrier to proper administration of tribal programs is turnover among staff and leaders—entire governments can be voted out of office every two years. Attracting qualified administrators to often-remote reservations in the first place is another challenge. "So they hire maybe the chairman's nephew who had some accounting classes," said Pete Magee, a longtime auditor of tribal books.

Sergio Maldonado, a Northern Arapaho member who is diversity coordinator at Central Wyoming College in Riverton, said tribes generally are just finding their self-governance footing after years of being under federal control. He said there are four goals for a successful tribal government—"academic preparation, professional experience, a collective consensus for the benefit of the tribe and an ethical set of guidelines."

Maldonado, who also teaches a class about the tribe on the reservation, said it is relatively easy to address each point individually. But all four must be done together, and that's not easy, he added. "It's not just our reservation; this is commonplace with a lot of tribes."

■ ■ ■

There are about 10,000 enrolled members of the Northern Arapaho, which shares a large reservation southeast of Grand Teton National Park. For the most part, they live in trailers, lapped siding homes and farm houses scratched into the high plains at the foot of the Wind River Mountain Range.

Officials at the Northern Arapaho Business Council, which governs the tribe, contended in a statement that numerous negative audits the tribe received were "primarily a result of inadequate documentation and record-keeping." The statement added that the management issues "were many years in the making and will take time and considerable financial resources to fix."

The business council has ordered a "top to bottom review of all programs, both tribal and federal, to determine if improper spending is taking place and if personnel changes are required."

Gary Collins, a former chairman of the business council who serves as the Northern Arapaho liaison with the state, said the tribe participates in more than 60 federal programs, a number that presents challenges for auditing and accountability. "There's nothing really intentional," he said of any shortcomings.

Since the early 1970s, federal policy has favored letting tribes manage housing, health, welfare, law enforcement and other programs as they see fit. As this "self-determination" approach took hold, many tribes developed the financial savvy and governmental infrastructure to handle millions in federal money without major incident. But others, like the Northern Arapaho, have not.

Federal officials try to coach tribes to self-correct rather than punish them—both in deference to tribal "self-determination" and because there aren't enough staff to closely monitor the thousands of service contracts between tribes and the government.

"There were less people in that hallway than you would find working in a McDonald's," said Walter Lamar, a former deputy director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' law enforcement program. His Washington, D.C., headquarters staff of six or seven oversaw 100 tribal police agencies that patrol an area one and a half times larger than New York state.

Even when auditors raise concerns, there is no guarantee that tribal leaders will be investigated or prosecuted. Several auditors said their contracts were not renewed after they uncovered self-enrichment by tribal leaders.

In Montana—the nation's fourth-largest state by size, with a history of corruption on its far-flung reservations—just two investigators track down tips of fraud for the Interior Department's inspector general. The FBI focuses on violent crime.

Sympathy for tribes among some government officials also is at play.

During her years as a lawyer at the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Allison Binney said she heard some agency officials say they weren't interested in recovering funds because of "how many times a particular tribe was taken advantage of by the federal government.'"

Another justification for inaction Binney heard: A tribe is too poor to pay back federal funds.

That was the conclusion in the case of the Lake Paiute tribe in Nevada, and the fish hatchery that never was.

Over 14 years, starting in 1992, the BIA sent the tribe $1.6 million to protect the threatened Lahontan trout. Central to the effort was a fish hatchery. But by 2003 the hatchery still hadn't hatched a single fish. And that year it was converted to an office.

Local BIA staff first suggested stopping funding in the 1990s. Even after the superintendent at the nearest BIA office visited the lake within a year of the building's conversion, hatchery money kept flowing.

Several subordinates "described an atmosphere ... where they were discouraged from providing negative feedback about the tribes they were monitoring," according to an investigative report by Interior's inspector general. One employee said he was advised by a supervisor to sign an approving letter because his boss "wanted tribes to be successful."

Hatchery funds were finally cut off in 2006, after an official in the bureau's Western regional office asked how many fish had been hatched. Eventually, it emerged that Summit Lake Paiute leaders had taken the money and made nonrefundable deposits in a failed bid to buy land near the tribe's reservation in mountainous northwestern Nevada.

The agency demanded that the Summit Lake Paiute reimburse $927,000. The tribe appealed for debt relief.

In 2011, the two sides settled. The tribe would have to pay back only $108,510. Then the agency forgave the entire debt because, according to BIA spokeswoman Nedra Darling, the tribe had no way to pay it.

Indeed, agencies recoup a small fraction of what they conclude tribes owe.

Since fiscal year 2008, the BIA and the Bureau of Indian Education have collected only $2.3 million of nearly $69 million in questionable expenditures, according to financial records. In several cases, the bureaus were legally barred from recouping money because they waited too long.

Since 2003, auditors concluded that 79 tribes or Indian organizations couldn't justify $33 million of Environmental Protection Agency money they spent. EPA said it had recouped "approximately $3 million" since October 2007.

Campus Life

Carnegie Mellon University students aid Palau college

Two students from Carnegie Mellon University recently spent about 10 weeks in Palau to assist with the technological aspects of the island's community college.

Fachry Rozy Oemar and Cheng Ding are graduates students in the field of computer technology. They both attend the Carnegie University campus in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. During their stay, Oemar and Ding lived at the dormitories of Palau Community College while assisting the school with its technical capabilities. Their main focuses were redeveloping the network framework and re-designing the school's official website.

PCC

From left, Palau Community College's Computer & Processing director Bruce S. Rimirch, Carnegie Mellon University student Fachry Rozy Oemar, PCC president Dr. Patrick U. Tellei, PCC system analyst Grace Alexander, and Carnegie Mellon University student Cheng Ding.

Oemar spent the first two to three weeks analyzing the framework of the school's network system. He worked with PCC Director of Computer & Processing Bruce S. Rimirch. He succeeded in improving the network communication between computers at the school.

Ding spent the weeks evaluating the school's website. She worked with the school's system analyst, Grace Alexander. Ding designed a new website for the school that provided necessary information to prospective students while maintaining a simple layout. The new website can be viewed at http://pcc.palau.edu.

Ding and Oemar have contributed to the improvement of the school's technology, especially in terms of meeting the goals set in the institutional master plan. PCC thanks the Carnegie Mellon University students for their time and assistance during their 10-week stay in Palau.

Carnegie Mellon is an institute of higher learning with campuses around the United States. In addition, it also provides international degree programs for countries in Asia, Australia, Latin America, and Europe. The first school was founded in 1900 by the American industrialist and philanthropists, Andrew Carnegie. The institutions are renowned for innovative ideas, especially in the fields of science and technology. ***(PCC)***

UOG offers course for aspiring CPAs

The University of Guam School of Business and Public Administration and Becker Professional Education offer a three-credit Auditing, Assurance and Business Environment and Concepts graduate course to prepare individuals to take the U.S. Certified Public Accountant examination. The course runs Saturdays from 8:30am to 12:30pm, from Oct. 26, 2013, to Jan. 14, 2014, and will be taught by Professor Zeny Nace, CPA and Jason Katigbak, CPA.

For more information contact the UOG Professional & International Programs Office 735-2600. ***(UOG)***

Parents back high-stakes testing

WASHINGTON (AP)—Often criticized as too prescriptive and all-consuming, standardized tests have support among parents, who view them as a useful way to measure both students' and schools' performances, according to an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll.

Most parents also say their own children are given about the right number of standardized tests, according to the AP-NORC poll.

They'd like to see student performance on statewide exams used in evaluating teachers, and almost three-quarters said they favored changes that would make it easier for schools to fire poorly performing teachers.

"The tests are good because they show us where students are at, if they need help with anything," said Vicky Nevarez, whose son Jesse just graduated from high school in Murrieta, Calif. "His teachers were great and if there were problems, the tests let me know."

The polling results are good news for states looking to implement increased accountability standards and for those who want to hold teachers responsible for students' slipping standing against other countries' scores. Teachers' unions have objected to linking educators' evaluations to student performance.

As students prepare to return to classrooms, the AP-NORC Center surveyed parents of students at all grade levels and found:

■ Sixty-one percent of parents think their children take an appropriate number of standardized tests and 26 percent think their children take too many tests.

■ Teachers' fates shouldn't rest solely on test results, according to a majority of parents. Fifty-six percent said classroom observations should be part of teachers' evaluations, and 74 percent of all parents said they wanted districts to help struggling teachers.

■ Despite many Republicans' unrelenting criticism of the Common Core State Standards, in various stages of implementation in 45 states and the District of Columbia, 52 percent parents have heard little or nothing about the academic benchmarks and a third are unsure if they live in a state using them. Still, when given a brief description of what the standards do, about half of parents say educational quality will improve once the standards are implemented, 11 percent think it will get worse, and 27 percent say they'll have no effect.

■ Seventy-five percent of parents say standardized tests are a solid measure of their children's abilities, and 69 percent say such exams are a good measure of the schools' quality.

AP

In this April 18, 2013, file photo, Burgess-Peterson Elementary School principal Robin Robbins, center, meets with students during an after-school study program in Atlanta, in preparation for state standardized testing, soon to begin.

"We know when the tests are coming up. They spend a lot of time getting ready for them," said Rodney Land of Lansing, Mich.

His daughter, Selena, will be in eighth grade at a charter school this fall. The weights-and-measures inspector supports the testing because "it shows what they know, and what they should know."

"We need some way to keep track of whether the teachers are spending enough time educating," Land said.

Education union leaders have stood opposed to linking teacher evaluations with these tests, arguing it is unfair to punish teachers for students' shortcomings. They also say teachers have not had sufficient time to rewrite their lessons to reflect new academic benchmarks, such as those found in the Common Core.

When states have adopted the Common Core State Standards, which aim to provide consistent requirements across all states for math and English, test results often falter and the standards can make schools and teachers appear to be faring worse than they did the previous year.

Then, what to do with those test results?

A full 93 percent of parents say standardized tests should be used to identify areas where students need extra help. Smaller majorities think such tests should be used to measure school quality, evaluate teachers or determine whether or not students are promoted or can graduate.

At the same time, 72 percent of all parents said they want to make it easier for school districts to fire teachers who aren't getting the job done. That position had the strongest showing among white parents, 80 percent of whom favored the idea. About 6 in 10 Hispanic or black parents agreed.

That's not to say, though, that parents want to dismiss teachers immediately or leave them without a safety net, especially not new educators. Eighty-seven percent of all parents said they wanted districts to spend money to help new teachers.

For Julie Dorwart, a behavior therapist from Wilmington, N.C., making sure students do well with the material that's taught is important. Her son Matt, who is starting his freshman year of high school this fall, "really stressed out" about standardized tests but nonetheless performed well. She would prefer school officials evaluate students and teachers based on grades, not just universal tests.

"The schools make such a big deal about them and put so much emphasis on the (tests) that the kids freak out," she said.

Among parents who are also teachers or share a household with a teacher, the opinions shifted. Only about 3 in 10 in that group think changes in students' test scores should count in teacher evaluations. And 55 percent of households with teachers said standardized test scores in general should not be used to evaluate teachers.

"I think the biggest crime is that teaching has turned to focus on the tests, rather than the tests being a tool that help you understand. All the teaching and learning is on the subject being tested," said Abby Cohen, a 50-year-old teacher from Newton, Mass., a Boston suburb.

Her daughter, Isabel Snyder, is starting her senior year, and Cohen worries Isabel didn't get as much as she could have from the teachers because of the focus on testing.

"You have to ask how much you're straightjacketing the teachers," Cohen said.

The survey was sponsored by the Joyce Foundation, which works to promote policies that improve the quality of teachers, including the development of new teacher evaluation systems, enhance early reading reforms and encourage innovation in public schools.

The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research survey was conducted June 21 through July 22, 2013. The nationally representative poll, conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago, involved landline and cellphone interviews in English or Spanish with 1,025 parents of children who completed grades K through 12 in the last school year. Results for the full sample have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4.1 percentage points; it is larger for subgroups.

Life & Style

Fox anchor apologizes after Obama gaffe

NEW YORK (AP)—A Fox News Channel anchor apologized for falsely saying that President Barack Obama had offered to pay for the operation of a museum of Muslim culture "out of his own pocket" during the government shutdown.

Anchor Anna Kooiman made the remark Saturday on "Fox & Friends" during a discussion about closed facilities. She didn't cite a source, but a satirical news site called "National Report" had posted a story headlined: "Obama Uses Own Money to Open Muslim Museum Amid Government Shutdown."

The fake story said that Obama had "held a press conference" to announce he would use his own money to reopen the International Museum of Muslim Cultures in Jackson, Miss.

Kooiman said Saturday she didn't think it was fair that World War II veterans faced a closed Washington monument honoring people killed during that conflict.

"We're going to talk a little bit later in the show, too, about some things that are continuing to be funded," she said. "And President Obama has offered to pay out of his own pocket for the Museum of Muslim Culture."

It was her last mention of the museum. On Sunday, she said on Twitter that she had made a mistake after receiving flawed research. "My apologies," she tweeted. "Won't happen again."

Fox will correct the mistake on the air this Saturday, a spokeswoman said. Fox's policy is to correct mistakes on the same show where they are made.

It's not clear how the mistake was made. The National Report doesn't clearly label the story a joke. One story on the site Monday was headlined "Jesus Christ Boycotts Hobby Lobby," a reference to the craft store. Polls show a consistent minority of Americans believe Obama is a Muslim, even though he is Christian.

At least one thing is accurate in the story. There actually is an International Museum of Muslim Cultures in Jackson, Miss., and it has been open since 2001. The museum does not take federal operating funds and is not affected by the shutdown, said Okolo Rashid, its co-founder, on Monday.

She said she was bewildered to get dozens of calls regarding Obama—some of them disturbing—in the past few days until one of her co-workers pointed out the spoof story.

"Of course, they're supposed to check their facts," she said. "But often, they don't."

This theater publicity image released by Boneau Bryan Brown shows Rachel Weisz, left, Daniel Craig in a promotional photo from Harold Pinter's "Betrayal," a play about a love triangle and the pain of loss that stars real-life couple Rachel Weisz and Daniel Craig. AP

'Betrayal' with Daniel Craig already a hit

NEW YORK (AP)—The real-life husband-and-wife team Daniel Craig and Rachel Weisz helped propel "Betrayal" to a Broadway record—and the show hasn't even officially opened yet.

Data released Monday from The Broadway League shows that the first seven previews of the Harold Pinter revival earned $1,100,818, breaking the Barrymore Theater's weekly box office record. It took the crown set by the recent revival of "Death of a Salesman," which grossed $1,066,582 in June 2012.

The two shows share the same director, Mike Nichols, and lead producer, Scott Rudin. More records may fall soon when the show increases to eight performances a week. It opens Oct. 27, when critics have their say. Adding to its pull is that "Betrayal" is to play only 14 weeks, through Jan. 5.

Overall, the 28 shows on Broadway last week earned $21,422,654. A few new shows—including "A Night With Janis Joplin," "The Snow Geese," "A Time to Kill" and "That Winslow Boy"—have begun previews but haven't had critics weigh in yet. Another new show, "Big Fish," opened Sunday to mixed notices.

The numbers also show the softening in demand for "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" continues—it grossed $654,748, or 42 percent of its potential $1,543,508 with its home, the Foxwoods Theatre, three-quarters full. Another show barely limping along is "Soul Doctor" which grossed only 15 percent of its $716,208 potential.

Scholars visit Vt. birthplace of 'The Jungle Book'

MARLBORO, Vt. (AP)—Mention the name Rudyard Kipling, and images of tropical forests, mongooses and cobras come to mind—not the snowy vistas of Vermont. But that's exactly where many of the British writer's best-known tales, including "The Jungle Book," took shape.

In honor of his connections to Vermont, a group of scholars known as the Kipling Society is holding its symposium outside the United Kingdom for the first time—and touring a home the author built in the shape of a ship, high on a hill overlooking the Connecticut River.

During the four years he lived there, one of the greatest chroniclers of 19th-century British imperialism snowshoed in winter, went to barn dances and made friends with his neighbors.

"I found the neighbors were flattered to have Kipling among them. They were keenly interested in his work, that they respected rather than resented his apparent, and only apparent, wish to keep to himself," said Thomas Pinney, a retired professor from California's Pomona College who gave the keynote address Monday at the two-day symposium, "Kipling in America," at Vermont's Marlboro College in Marlboro, not far from Kipling's home in Dummerston.

Kipling lived in Dummerston from 1892 to 1896 when he wrote "Rikki-Tikki-Tavi," the story of a mongoose that battled two vicious cobras in India while protecting his human family from harm. While in Vermont, he also wrote the other stories in his collection "The Jungle Book"; "Captains Courageous"; the poems of "The Seven Seas"; and many of the stories in "The Day's Work" and "Many Inventions."

He was drawn to Vermont because of his wife, the sister of one of Kipling's literary collaborators, who was from Brattleboro. Part of the draw for the 60 scholars visiting this week from the United Kingdom and the U.S. will be a tour on Tuesday of Naulakha, the home he built in the shape of a ship.

They are also viewing some of the college's Kipling holdings, such as the contents of a safe deposit box that was discovered untouched in the early 1990s after almost a century in a bank in Brattleboro. Among the items in it were a copy of his marriage license, a will and other personal documents.

Organizers hope the meeting will serve to revive Kipling's reputation, which among scholars declined through the middle years of the 20th century as the British imperial era lost esteem.

"We will hear something about Kipling the ideologist of imperialism, because he was that, as a spokesman; he saw the British empire as the great force for spreading law and progression," said Professor Janet Montefiore, the editor of the Kipling Journal and director of the symposium. "But also he was this wonderful tale teller and also, the thing that is so nice about Kipling, he is so interested in people."

Kaori Nogai, a Japanese scholar who has studied Kipling while earning her doctorate at the University of Kent, said many of the topics Kipling wrote about a century ago remain relevant today, in the age of globalization.

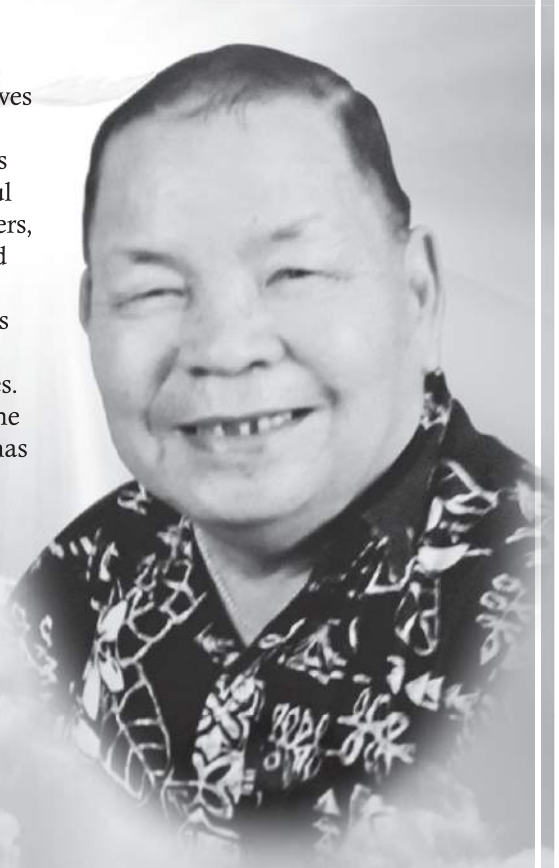
"He talked about empire, how different people from different continents and different races have to live together. I think he will become even more relevant now," Nogai said. "It's not just that he's a brilliant writer; he has a vision for the future."

In Humble Gratitude

We, the children & families of the late

†Antonio Reyes Untalan

Lovingly known as "Anton" "Familian Onio"



Wish to extend our deepest and warmest appreciation to all our relatives and friends, near and far, for the genuine compassion you showed us during our greatest and most painful time of sorrow. Your thoughtful prayers, comfort, and unending support and other considerate acts of grace did much to calm the ache in our hearts and may time lessen our pain as memories gently turns tears to smiles. We acknowledge and cherish the time you devoted unto us, your kindness has touched us all and we will forever remember you.

May God Bless Us All

Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Thank You – Maraming Salamat

The Family

Miley will be less sexual at 40, 'maybe'

By ANN OLDENBURG
USA TODAY

AP

Miley Cyrus performs on NBC's "Today" show on Monday, Oct. 7, 2013 in New York.

Miley Cyrus performed on NBC's Today show on Monday morning, fresh from her SNL performance.

Matt Lauer sat down with her to chat about everything—one more time.

On the VMAs, he asked if she went to the show with a plan. "I don't ever really plan to offend people, but sometimes people are just open to what they don't understand. That's why what I'm doing is for my fans—because they're all really young and they understand what I'm doing."

She added, "It went exactly as planned. It's a month later and we're still talking about it."

On naked photos and navigating territory between child star and adult performer: "This is who I am. It's only hard if you're trying to be something you're not."

Is the sexual side of Cyrus just a phase? "I hear when you turn 40, things start to go a little less sexual so probably around 40. I heard that people don't have sex anymore, so I guess maybe around then."

Lauer, with a grin, then asked her if she knew how old he is. "I'm going to guess 40," said Cyrus.

"I love you," said Lauer, telling her he is 55.

"Oh, then you're really definitely not sexual," she teased.

Of Sinead O'Connor and their recent feud, Cyrus said, "I think she's an incredible artist. I think she's an awesome songwriter and I was really inspired by her for my Wrecking Ball video, which is what started the whole thing. I don't know how someone can start a fight with somebody who's saying, 'Hey, I really respect you. And I really love what you did.' (And have the response be) 'You know what? You suck and I don't like you.'"

She went on to say, "It's all good. You can write an open letter as often as you want. That's really what blogging is. I get open letters every day."

Does she have a five year plan? "Not really. I'm focused on when I can go on tour, which is going to be next year." she added, "I'm happiest I've ever been in my whole life."

Does she worry that her talent is being overlooked by all the sex antics that are garnering attention? 'I don't worry about anything because I know who I am and I know that I'm an artist and I've put all this time into my record ... For me the most important thing is being a really good person. And that doesn't depend on what you do on stage. That's how you treat people offstage and I know how I treat people, so I'm not really too worried about it."

Bergdorf's meets 'Girls': An unlikely fashion duo

NEW YORK (AP)—Betty Halbreich had something to share over brunch the other morning.

"I'm wearing a panty girdle," allowed the 85-year-old personal shopping guru at the legendarily tony Bergdorf Goodman on Fifth Avenue—not a shocking revelation for a woman of a certain age who's spent her life impeccably attired.

"I've NEVER worn a panty girdle," replied her brunch companion and co-panelist, Lena Dunham, the 27-year-old creator and star of HBO's "Girls."

"I know!" replied Halbreich.

Big laugh from the crowd.

Opposites may attract, but still, at first blush, it's a little hard to imagine what would unite Halbreich, the no-nonsense Bergdorf's doyenne who's been catering to her well-heeled clientele for nearly four decades, and Dunham, whose oft-scrutinized fashion choices—or, choices to wear little of anything at all on her show—seem as far from Halbreich's world as conceivably possible.

But in a potentially delicious convergence of two radically different orbits, Dunham and Halbreich, 58 years her senior, are coming together for a project based on Halbreich's life. Dunham and co-writer Jenni Konner (also of "Girls") are slated to write a comedy series, currently in development at HBO.

Whenever that might happen, it's a proposition that raises lots of tantalizing style questions, as was clearly demonstrated at Sunday's brunch at Bergdorf's BG restaurant, an event put on by the New Yorker Festival and moderated by fashion writer Judith Thurman.

For example: Jeans.

Betty: "I have to tell you, I've never worn a pair of blue jeans in my life. I've tried them on. Behind closed doors. They're very uncomfortable!"

Lena: "True. You need jeggings. Like these. Highly stretchable."

Or eye shadow.

Betty: "I told you, that blue eye shadow at the Emmys made your eyes tear."

Lena: "I know. The Emmys weren't my finest hour."

Or backsides.

Betty: "You realize that most people have never seen the back of themselves. They've never used a double mirror."

AP

This Oct. 6, 2013 image released by The New Yorker Festival shows Betty Halbreich, renowned personal shopper at Bergdorf Goodman, left, speaking as actress Lena Dunham looks on during a panel at the New Yorker Festival in New York.

Lena: "Maybe they don't want to know."

Or Dunham's controversial taste in fashion.

Lena: "I've been told I have terrible taste."

Betty: "Who told you?"

Lena: "US Weekly."

The Sunday crowd was a refreshing mix of Upper East Side—undoubtedly clients of Halbreich—and younger fashion types closer to Dunham's age. Refreshing because each cultural subgroup seemed to appreciate the other.

"There's a pragmatic principle behind the way Betty dresses people," Dunham said. "It's very inclusive. There's room for everyone in her process." She also noted how Halbreich "is able to be in the fashion world, but also take it down a peg at the same time."

In her ninth decade, the engaging, blunt-spoken Halbreich is enjoying a rash of publicity; earlier this year she was highlighted in the documentary "Scatter My Ashes at Bergdorf's."

She likes to tell how her adventures in personal shopping began. Working initially at the second-floor Geoffrey Beene boutique, the store's head came to her after a year and asked her why there was no record of any of her sales.

Turned out, she said Sunday, she was letting others register her sales, because "I didn't want to use the cash register." Even today, she notes, "My hands have never touched a computer."

She asked the boss to set her up as a personal shopper, and the rest was history.

Of course, Halbreich doesn't dress Dunham, and she didn't say much about her clothes, though she did seem to like Dunham's stylish red pointy boots. And they bonded over their nightgown collections—though Halbreich implied hers were private, whereas Dunham said she liked to share hers on Instagram.

And as for "Girls," the show that has made Dunham one of the best-known young personalities on TV?

"I've never seen it," Halbreich said, without a trace of self-consciousness.

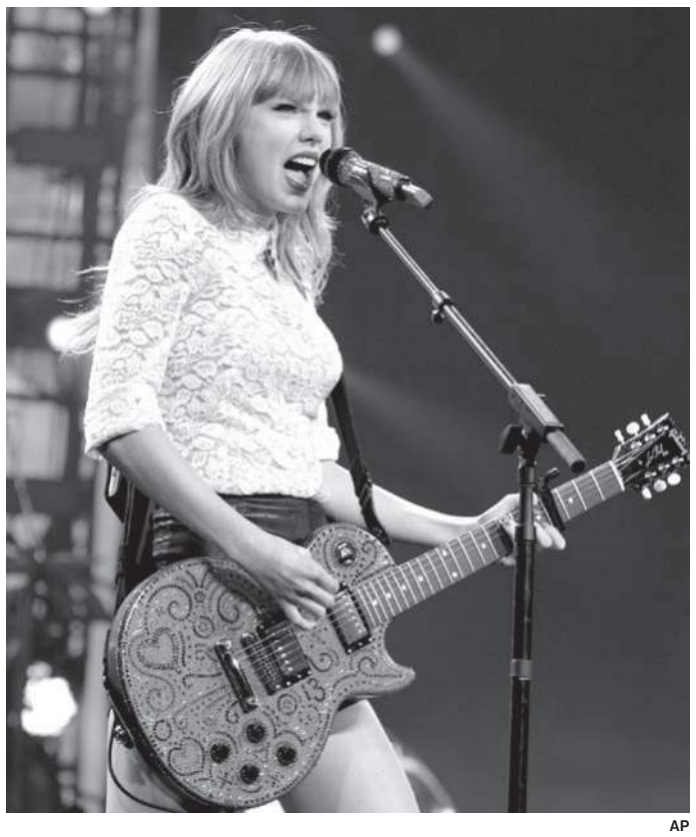
Swift, Aldean among CMA Awards performers

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Taylor Swift, Jason Aldean and most of the major nominees have signed on to perform at the Country Music Association Awards next month.

Swift and Aldean were among the first round of performers announced Monday for the Nov. 6 show in Nashville, Tenn. Top nominee Swift is one of four entertainer of the year nominees who will perform, along with Aldean, Luke Bryan and Blake Shelton.

Former entertainer winners Keith Urban and Tim McGraw also are scheduled to perform, along with Miranda Lambert and Little Big Town. Lambert and her husband, Shelton, have five nominations each, one behind top nominees Swift and Kacey Musgraves.

More performers will be announced later. Carrie Underwood and Brad Paisley will host the 47th annual awards.



AP

In this May 11, 2013 file photo, Taylor Swift performs onstage during her Red Tour at the Verizon Center in Washington D.C.

Belarus journalist wins Pinter writers' prize

LONDON (AP)—A Belarusian journalist who has criticized her country's authoritarian government has won a major freedom-of-speech prize.

Iryna Khalip, a correspondent for Russia's Novaya Gazeta newspaper, shares the 2013 PEN/Pinter prize with British playwright Tom Stoppard.

She was detained and beaten in December 2010 after demonstrating against President Alexander Lukashenko and alleged electoral fraud, and later convicted of disrupting public order.

The PEN/Pinter prize was established in 2009 in memory of Nobel Prize-winning playwright Harold Pinter. It goes jointly to a British writer and a "writer of courage" who has faced persecution.

Stoppard, who scripted Oscar-winner "Shakespeare in Love," is the author of plays such as "Arcadia" and "The Real Thing."

He said Monday, "I started off as a journalist and I'm proud to share the prize with a brave reporter."

Buckingham Palace soccer: 'Don't break a window'

LONDON (AP)—It's all well and good to play soccer on the beautiful lawns at Buckingham Palace, but don't break a window.

That was Prince William's message Monday in advance of the first ever competitive match held on the extensive palace grounds.

"I cannot tell you how excited I am that later today we will be playing football (soccer) on my grandmother's lawn," he said before the game. "One warning, though: if anyone breaks a window, you can answer to her."

The game features two amateur teams, Civil Service FC and Polytechnic FC, playing in a Southern Amateur League match.

The soccer pitch was easily accommodated in the 39 acres of gardens, amid lakes and flowerbeds.

AP

The Duke of Cambridge (right) watches as referee Howard Webb (third left) tosses the coin before the Southern Amateur League football match between Polytechnic FC and Civil Service FC in Buckingham Palace's garden, central London Monday Oct. 7, 2013.

UK makes royal coin for baby prince's christening

LONDON (AP)—Superstition holds it's good luck to cross a newborn's palm with silver to wish the child riches and health, but Britain's baby Prince George is getting something more: A whole new set of coins in his honor.

Britain's Royal Mint said the 5 pound coin (with a face value of $8) will carry the image of the child's great-grandmother Queen Elizabeth II on the front and cherubs and lilies on the back.

The Royal Mint routinely issues commemorative coins for royal occasions, although it said Monday that this would be its first set meant to mark a christening, the ceremony by which children are welcomed into the church through baptism.

Thousands of silver, gold and uncirculated versions of the coin are being minted.

Prince George was born July 22.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Garth and Spelling to co-star in ABC Family pilot

NEW YORK (AP)—Former "Beverly Hills, 90210" stars Jennie Garth and Tori Spelling are reuniting. The actresses will co-star and executive produce the new ABC Family series "Mystery Girls." Spelling and Garth will play Holly and Charlie, former co-stars of a popular 90s crime-solving series. Spelling's Holly opens a detective agency and persuades Charlie, now a suburban mom, to help. "Mystery Girls" is set to shoot in November. Spelling and Garth remained on the original "Beverly Hills, 90210" for its entire 10 seasons. Garth was featured on the first two seasons of the recent CW "90210" spinoff, while Spelling guest-starred in two episodes.

Jermaine Dupri joins Carey's management team

NEW YORK (AP)—Music producer Jermaine Dupri is joining Mariah Carey's management team. A representative for Carey confirmed the news Monday. They have collaborated on hits like "Always Be My Baby," "Don't Forget About Us" and "We Belong Together," which was named song of the decade and is one of the most popular songs of all time. Carey said in a statement that she and Dupri "have a bond that surpasses music." The singer is recording a new album called "The Art of Letting Go." The first single, the Miguel-featured "(hash)Beautiful," was released in May and peaked at No. 15. Dupri has written and produced for Usher, Monica and Destiny's Child. He has had success with acts like Kris Kross, Xscape, Bow Wow and Jagged Edge on his So So Def label.

Daughter-in-law's pregnancy tears husband's family apart

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My daughter-in-law had an affair with a co-worker and is now pregnant by him. She swears she loves my son and won't leave him, but insists that her lover be a part of the baby's life. My son is torn. They have two small children and he doesn't want to break up the family. How can he continue to trust her?

My husband refuses to have her in our house. She can be vindictive to those she feels have "wronged" her, and I'm afraid she'll keep us from the grandchildren. My son used to go to church before she came along, but they no longer go. We sought legal advice for him and he knows the score in that regard. Abby, how can we make him see this woman is no good for him?

HEAVY-HEARTED MOTHER IN GEORGIA

DEAR MOTHER: If I were you, I'd stop trying. Your son has made his choice, which is to keep his family together. If that means accepting that his wife will maintain a relationship with her lover and, in essence, her baby will have "two daddies," that's the way it's going to be. While I understand your husband's anger, as long as your son is willing to tolerate the situation, there is nothing to be gained by banning your daughter-in-law from the premises.

Because you mentioned church, pray for the strength to support your son through this because he's going to need it. I'm sure he is fully aware that his wife isn't "good" for him, but he's trying to take the high road anyway. So try to be supportive.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I met a woman who seems to be everything I have been looking for. We have similar interests and share many of the same goals.

My problem is I'm only 5 foot 9 and she's 6 feet tall. Am I foolish for feeling like less of a man when in her company? What will people think?

NOT SO TALL IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR NOT SO TALL: If you would allow a 3-inch difference in height to keep you from pursuing a woman who "seems to be everything you're looking for," then you ARE foolish.

Being taller than a woman doesn't make a man more manly. What makes a man manly is his level of self-confidence, which you appear to lack. Until you understand and accept that what other people think is THEIR problem, I'm not sure you'll find the happiness you're looking for.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 15-year-old girl who's involved with social media. My parents have always been protective. A few days ago they asked me for the passwords to my Twitter, Facebook and email accounts. I understand they're trying to protect me, but the fact that they don't trust me by now is upsetting.

I tried telling them this, and they say they DO trust me, but they still want my passwords. Is this a contradiction? I need some independence, and they don't seem to understand that.

LOSING MY MIND IN TACOMA, WASH.

DEAR LOSING YOUR MIND: It's not a contradiction if you read some of the news coverage on the Internet about young people who have committed suicide because they were hounded by cyber-bullies. It's not a contradiction if you consider that sometimes bad things happen at parties that aren't properly supervised. If, God forbid, you should "disappear," your parents —and the police— would want to know who had been communicating with you and what was said.

Please do not overreact to their concern. While it would have been better if they had given you a reason for their request, I doubt they'll be reading over your shoulder. Most parents don't spend a lot of time doing that unless they have some reason to mistrust their teenager.

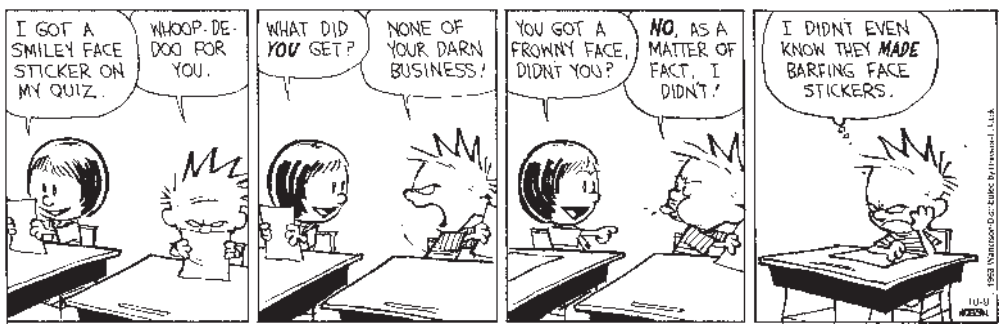
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

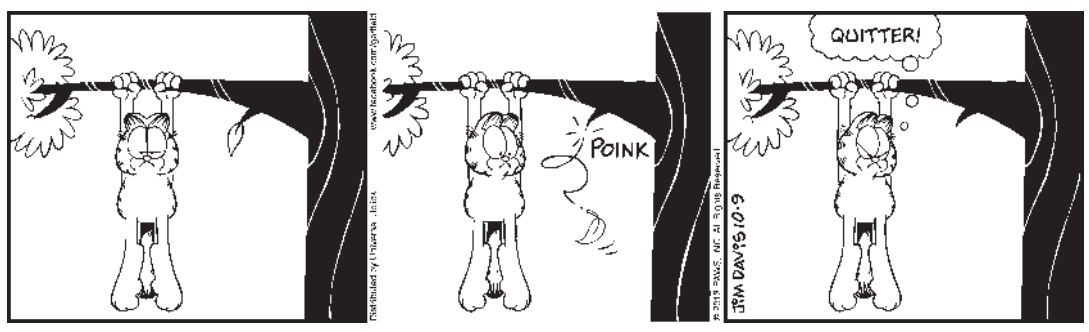
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I GOT A SMILEY FACE STICKER ON MY QUIZ.
WHOOP-DE-DOO FOR YOU.
WHAT DID YOU GET?
NONE OF YOUR DARN BUSINESS!
YOU GOT A FROWNY FACE, DIDN'T YOU?
NO, AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DIDN'T!
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THEY MADE BARFING FACE STICKERS.

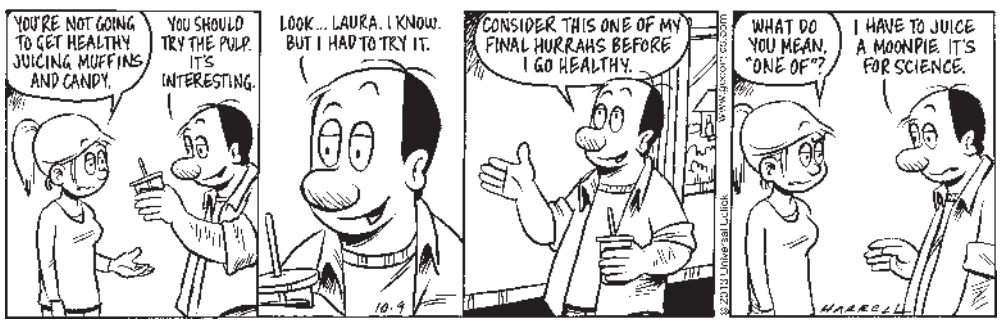
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset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I HAVE TO JUICE A MOONPIE. IT'S FOR SCIENCE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

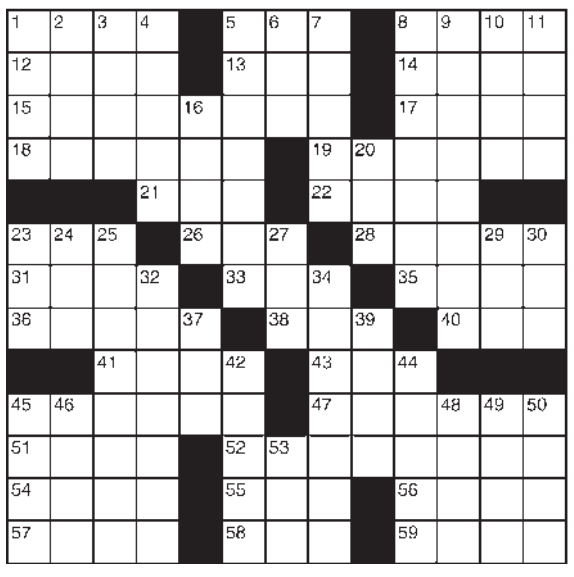
ACROSS
1 Not single-sex
5 English channel?
8 Send forth
12 Bohemian
13 Lubricate
14 Exceptional
15 Winnipeg's province
17 Involved with
18 2013 Disney movie
19 Smooth fabrics
21 Acquire
22 Tour the Internet
23 Scot's chapeau
26 Kitten's comment
28 Crystal-lined rock
31 Serb or Croat
33 Scepter
35 Astringent
36 Widespread fear
38 Sphere
40 Precursor to Windows
41 Brand with an alligator logo
43 Pismire
45 Sunbather's recliner
47 Surgical dressings
51 Grown-up nits
52 Salon service
54 Way out there
55 Didn't pay yet
56 Make bootees, maybe
57 Wire measures
58 Butterfly catcher
59 Transgressions

DOWN
1 Bivouac
2 Verbal
3 Laboratory heater
4 Going out, like a fire
5 Supplementary dose
6 Tucker companion?
7 Elegance
8 Red Sea country
9 Car exhaust part
10 Pressing need?
11 Sawbucks
16 Abound
20 Summer mo.
23 Recipe abbr.
24 Carte lead-in
25 Crazed
27 Court
29 Pair
30 Type squares
32 Ottoman officers
34 Jack Webb's show
37 Lettuce variety
39 — B'rith
42 Devil
44 Partners of nips
45 Untalkative sort
46 Stereo setup
48 Pueblo tribe
49 Burnett of CNN
50 Collections
53 Astonishment

Solution time: 21 mins.

J	A	I	L	■	S	H	E	■	D	A	I	S
A	P	S	F	■	P	A	Y	■	F	R	N	F
D	E	L	I	C	A	T	E	■	L	I	O	N
F	X	F	■	O	W	F	■	G	I	A	N	T
■	■	■	D	I	N	■	F	A	R	■	■	■
A	S	P	E	N	■	D	E	L	I	L	A	H
D	U	A	L	■	V	O	W	■	O	S	L	O
D	E	L	I	B	E	S	■	A	U	D	I	T
■	■	■	C	O	X	■	E	N	S	■	■	■
A	F	F	I	X	■	B	L	T	■	S	I	M
C	L	I	O	■	D	E	L	I	V	E	R	Y
M	E	N	U	■	A	N	I	■	I	C	O	N
E	W	E	S	■	Y	E	S	■	E	T	N	A

Yesterday's answer 10-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brandon Routh, 34; Scott Bakula, 59; Tony Shalhoub, 60; Sharon Osbourne, 61.

Happy Birthday: Good things comes to those who wait, and things are looking up for you this year. Changes going on around you at work and in your community will turn out to be beneficial, and greater opportunities will surface, making it difficult for you to make up your mind. Don't procrastinate. Size up your situation and make a move. Your numbers are 5, 11, 18, 24, 30, 41, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Explore new interests and pick up skills that are marketable in the current workplace. Keep personal matters or changes at home under control. Emotional drama will not resolve issues, but practical and mindful actions will. Embrace love. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Voice your opinions, but be careful when it comes to affairs of the heart. One step at a time will help keep the peace, ensuring you relay your message without anger or exasperation. Broaden your knowledge before taking a leap of faith. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Change, adventure, excitement and romance will brighten up your day if you get out and take part in something unusual or a community event that will enable you to contribute to something you believe in wholeheartedly. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Make an effort to incorporate whatever makes you happy into your life. Following a dream or visiting a destination that brings fond memories will help you make an important decision regarding your future and what you should do next. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Acquaintances or individuals you just met will be the ones who guide you to victory. Don't allow anyone to put demands on you, add to your responsibilities or stand between you and what you want to do. Change begins with you. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Discuss matters that concern you regarding children or elders in the family. A problem or misconception regarding someone's feelings will lead to the changes at home that are required in order for you to achieve happiness. Focus and pursue your dream. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Short trips, participating in a cause or demonstration and communicating with like-minded people will open up opportunities for partnerships, work and romance. Do what you want and be a leader, not a follower. Passion is blooming. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take your time when it comes to decisions that can alter your professional future. You are best to compare what it is you want and what's being offered. Making sure you get the perks you want will influence your work. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Clear your head and think about what is best for you. Secret entanglements will not resolve in the matter you had hoped for. Work on making whatever you have better. Protect your position, your reputation and your assets. Relationships require honesty and work. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Focus on work, making money and drumming up new business. Tuck your emotions away in a safe place and do not reveal your personal thoughts. Difficulties dealing with authority figures, institutions or while traveling are apparent. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Concentrate on creative endeavors and developing something you want to turn into a lucrative pastime. Rethink your past beliefs and consider what you must do in order to live by the rules and goals necessary to reach your desired destination. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Finish what you start or be prepared to face criticism. Look over pending projects and strategize how to get things done. Don't let emotions or a romantic situation cloud your vision, costing you the success you want and deserve. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are curious and outgoing. You are a crusader and a loyal friend.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4	3					
		8		9				
		6			7			
		3				4		
		1	8	3	2	5	9	
7				5				
4		5	2	1	3	9	7	6
	2							5
		9	5	7	4	3	8	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	8	7	9	1	4	3	2	5
1	4	5	2	3	7	8	6	9
9	3	2	6	8	5	4	1	7
7	9	4	8	2	6	1	5	3
5	1	8	7	9	3	2	4	6
2	6	3	5	4	1	7	9	8
3	5	1	4	7	9	6	8	2
8	7	9	1	6	2	5	3	4
4	2	6	3	5	8	9	7	1

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/08

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HOT AIR BALLOONING **Solution: 6 letters**

T	G	B	T	H	O	P	P	E	R	E	L	A	E	S
R	E	N	U	R	R	E	R	U	S	S	E	R	P	A
A	E	M	I	O	O	T	A	O	R	H	T	I	D	F
V	V	D	P	D	Y	M	L	L	A	F	L	M	A	E
E	E	A	N	E	N	A	A	Y	D	O	O	B	C	C
L	N	I	R	O	R	A	N	N	T	N	R	A	R	N
E	W	F	M	I	L	A	L	T	T	I	A	G	O	A
E	E	E	L	O	O	E	T	G	Ⓒ	I	S	T	N	T
G	X	N	D	A	S	M	O	U	R	Ⓡ	C	N	S	S
U	R	N	R	S	M	L	E	C	R	R	Ⓔ	H	E	I
A	O	O	E	O	F	E	R	T	O	E	A	Ⓦ	F	D
G	A	V	U	I	B	A	F	W	E	P	S	B	L	G
O	M	T	E	N	F	R	N	U	E	R	A	P	O	N
R	H	R	S	T	D	S	I	Z	E	K	E	T	A	O
E	E	T	U	H	C	A	R	A	P	L	I	F	T	L

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Yesterday's Answer: Sleeper

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Dodgers win NLDS on Uribe homer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Juan Uribe hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth inning after Clayton Kershaw started on short rest for the Dodgers in a 4-3 victory over the Atlanta Braves on Monday night, sending Los Angeles into the National League championship series for the first time since 2009.

Carl Crawford homered his first two times up for the Dodgers, who won the best-of-five playoff 3-1. Manager Don Mattingly and the NL West champions will open the NLCS on Friday against St. Louis or Pittsburgh.

The Cardinals host the wild-card Pirates in a winner-take-all Game 5 on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, it was the latest October flop for Atlanta, which hasn't won a postseason series since 2001. During that stretch, the Braves have lost seven straight playoff series and the 2012 NL wild-card game.

Yasiel Puig doubled down the right-field line leading off the eighth against losing pitcher David Carpenter. The rookie charged into second base and pumped his right fist in the air.

Fans were on their feet chanting "Let's go Dodgers!" when Uribe fouled off two bunt attempts, then sent a hanging 2-2 breaking ball into the Dodgers' bullpen in left field to put them in front for the second time.

"I (wanted) to have a good swing and try to win the game," Uribe said.

Brian Wilson pitched a scoreless eighth to get the victory. Kenley Jansen came on in the ninth to earn the save, striking out Justin Upton to end it.

That set off a raucous celebration on the field by the Dodgers, who rushed toward the mound in a mob. They tore jerseys off each other in unbridled excitement and doused Uribe with a bright-colored sports drink.

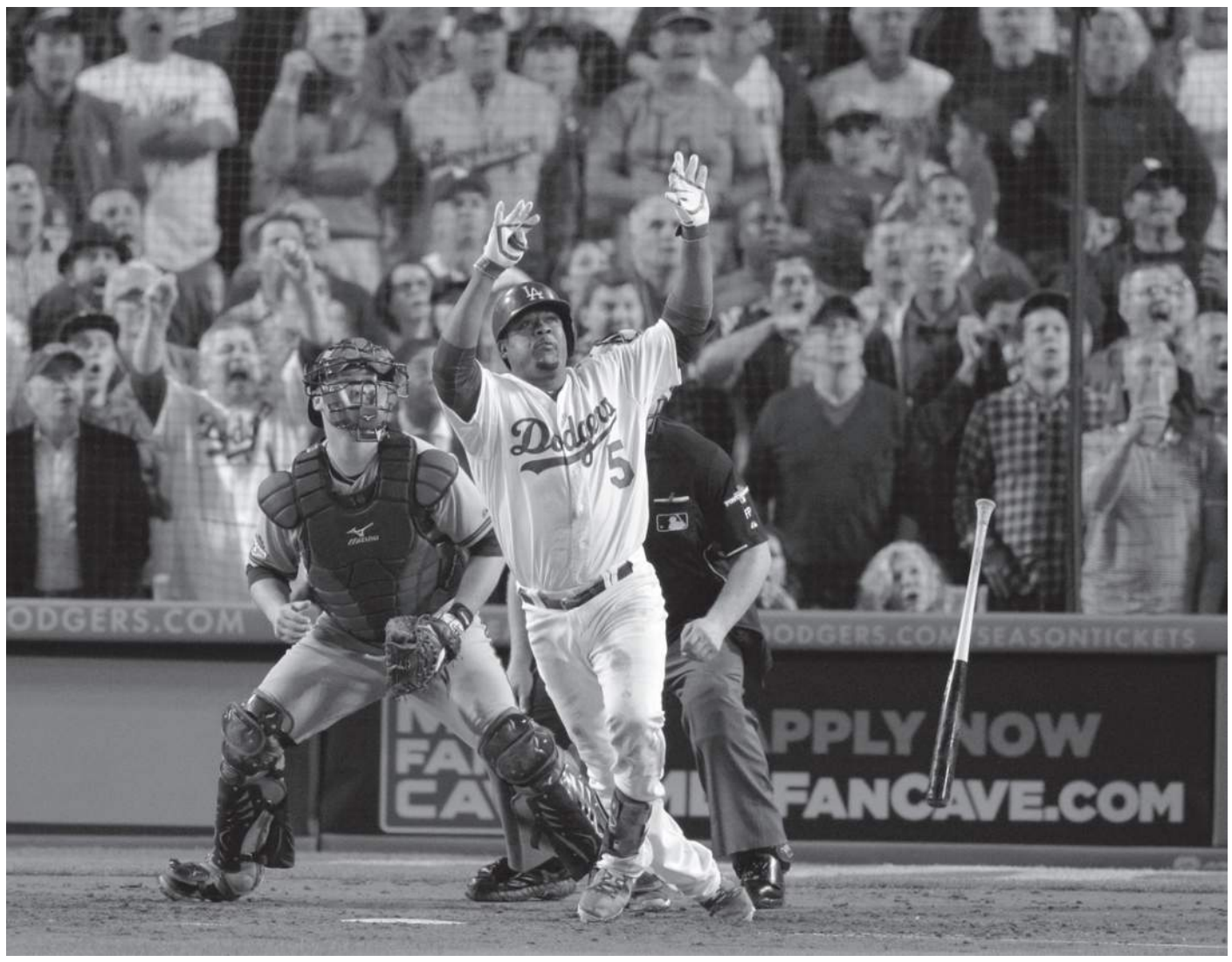
"This team has a lot of fun. We don't think about being the team to beat and all that stuff. We just go out there and play and try to have fun," Crawford said.

The Braves took a 3-2 lead in the seventh on pinch-hitter Jose Constanza's RBI single off reliever Ronald Belisario.

Needing a win to avoid elimination, Braves manager Fredi Gonzalez never got the ball to lights-out closer Craig Kimbrel.

"You don't want it to ever end the way we ended today. But we had the right guy out there. Carp has been good for us," Gonzalez said. "There is nothing to be ashamed of."

The Dodgers gambled in bringing back Kershaw on three days' rest for the first time in his career. But with a chance to close out the series, they opted for their ace over scheduled starter Ricky Nolasco. The move paid off when the 2011 Cy Young Award winner tossed six solid innings before turning it over to the bullpen.



AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Juan Uribe watches his two-run home run in front of Atlanta Braves catcher Brian McCann and home plate umpire Bill Miller during the eighth inning of Game 4 in the National League baseball division series, Monday, Oct. 7, 2013, in Los Angeles. The Dodgers won, 4-3, and advanced to the NL championship series.

Kershaw squandered a 2-0 lead, giving up two unearned runs and three hits. He struck out six and walked one on 91 pitches.

With one out in the seventh, Elliot Johnson tripled into the right-field corner, sending Puig sliding into the dirt chasing the ball as it caromed off the wall. Constanza, batting for starting pitcher Freddy Garcia, singled into center, scoring Johnson to put the NL East champion Braves ahead for the first time.

Garcia allowed two runs and eight hits in six innings. He struck out six and walked two.

Cardinals 2, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Michael Wacha heard the chants. Then again, when 40,000 people clad in black scream your name relentlessly for the better part of three hours, it's kind of hard to miss.

The goal was to rattle the St. Louis rookie, remind him that 22-year-old pitchers aren't built to withstand the pressure of an elimination game.

One problem. Wacha doesn't really do rattled. He doesn't do pressure, either. The louder PNC Park grew, the more unhittable Wacha became.

"I kind of like it," Wacha said. "It kind of gives me adrenaline. I kind of use it in my favor."

And the Pittsburgh Pirates - not to mention anyone else he might face in the postseason - "kind of" need to get used to it.

Wacha took a no-hit bid into the eighth inning and the Cardinals showed off their October poise, edging the Pirates 2-1 Monday to force a winner-take-all Game 5 in the NL division series. St. Louis is 7-1 over the last three years with its season on the line.

"I think you take high talent and high character people that are motivated and support each other, and they don't give up," Cardinals manager Mike Matheny said. "That's a tough combination."

One the Pirates are still trying to master. Pedro Alvarez hit his third home run of the series, connecting with one out in the eighth for Pittsburgh's only hit in Game 4. It wasn't enough for the Pirates to advance to the NL championship series for the first time in 21 years.

"I guess that's why we play five," star center fielder Andrew McCutchen said. "We'll be ready for the fifth one."

The Pirates weren't quite ready for the fourth one, not with the way Wacha was dealing. He walked two and struck out nine before giving way to the bullpen in the eighth.

Matt Holliday's two-run homer off Charlie Morton in the sixth was all the offense required on a day the Cardinals tossed the first one-hitter in the club's lengthy postseason history.

Rays 5, Red Sox 4

In St. Petersburg, the Tampa Bay Rays are still afloat in the AL division series.

Jose Lobaton hit a solo home run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning into the giant fish tank beyond center field, and Tampa Bay staved off elimination once again by beating the Boston Red Sox 5-4 Monday night.

Evan Longoria had a three-run homer and the Rays averted a playoff sweep, cutting Boston's lead to 2-1 in the best-of-five series. Game 4 is Tuesday night at Tropicana Field, with Jake Peavy starting for the Red Sox against Jeremy Hellickson.

"Look at this whole week working up to today, and then this game is even more dramatic than the other games we had already won," manager Joe Maddon said. "It's really an incredible day for the Rays."

Tampa Bay took a win-or-go-home game for the fourth time in nine days. The Rays did it with an unlikely stroke as Lobaton, who came off the bench to catch in the top of the ninth, connected against Red Sox closer Koji Uehara.

"It's unbelievable. It's something you can't explain," Lobaton said. "We never give up. We're going to keep fighting."

Back home after two weeks on the road, the Rays gave a sellout crowd of 33,675 little to cheer until Longoria homered on his 28th birthday. His three-run shot off Clay Buchholz with two outs in the fifth rallied Tampa Bay to a 3-all tie.

Pinch-hitter Delmon Young, who has a penchant for driving home key runs in October, put the Rays ahead 4-3 with an RBI grounder in the eighth.

The Red Sox tied it in the ninth after closer Fernando Rodney issued a leadoff walk to Will Middlebrooks. Dustin Pedroia's RBI grounder made it 4-all.

With a runner on third, pinch-hitter Mike Carp was called out on strikes to end the inning. Carp batted for Quintin Berry, who entered as a pinch-runner for David Ortiz in the eighth.

Berry stole second on a close play that drew an argument from Maddon. But when Ortiz's spot came up again in the ninth, Boston's big slugger was out of the game.

Rodney got the win when Lobaton golfed a low pitch to right-center. The ball deflected off a fan trying to catch the souvenir and wound up in the 10,000-gallon tank where cownose rays swim around.

Maddon said he was studying his lineup card when he heard the crack of the bat.

"Look up and the ball is going towards the tank, which, nobody hits home runs there. Nobody does. How about that? It's incredible," he said.

Athletics 6, Tigers 3

In Detroit, the Oakland Athletics have beaten Detroit with both pitching and power. And that's left the Tigers on the brink of elimination - and simmering with frustration.

Brandon Moss, Josh Reddick and Seth Smith homered for the Athletics, who chased Anibal Sanchez in the fifth inning Monday and defeated the Tigers 6-3 for a 2-1 AL division series lead.

Moss broke a 3-all tie in the fifth with a solo shot, and Smith's two-run drive later in the inning ended Sanchez's day. It was an impressive offensive show after the teams split two taut, low-scoring games in Oakland.

This one got a little tense in the ninth, too, when A's closer Grant Balfour and Detroit hitter Victor Martinez started shouting at each other after a foul ball, causing benches and bullpens to empty.

"I don't know what happened. Honestly, I know that Balfour is fiery on the mound - he's yelling a lot and spitting everywhere," Moss said. "It's who he is. You know, sometimes it can ruffle the feathers of other teams."

The A's aren't worried about making friends, especially after losing to the Tigers in a five-game division series last year. Oakland can close out this series Tuesday and reach the AL championship series for the first time since 2006 - when the Athletics were swept by the Tigers.

Oakland will send rookie Dan Straily to the mound against Detroit's Doug Fister.

"There's no tricks. We've got to win the game tomorrow to try to extend it to Game 5. It's that simple," Tigers manager Jim Leyland said. "We ran into another situation where we didn't put enough runs on the board and an excellent starting pitcher didn't have a very good day."

Sanchez, the American League's ERA leader, allowed six runs - five earned - and eight hits in 4 1-3 innings. Smith has homered off Sanchez more than any other player, having now done it twice in the regular season and twice in the playoffs.

There was activity in the Detroit bullpen before Smith's homer Monday, and he made the Tigers pay for sticking with the struggling Sanchez.

"Sometimes he starts out a little slow, you figure he's going to get it going," Leyland said. "Today he just really didn't get it going. He made a couple of real bad pitches the last inning he was out there to Moss and Smith."

Jarrod Parker gave up three runs in five innings for Oakland, and the Tigers couldn't rally against the bullpen.

Balfour pitched a hitless ninth for the save. Martinez had just hit a foul ball when he started looking back at Balfour, who yelled something at the designated hitter.

Martinez started slowly toward the mound, and players from both teams came running out. The situation eventually calmed and no players were ejected. Plate umpire Gary Darling said warnings were sufficient.

"I said, `Why you staring me down like that?'" Balfour said. "He was staring me down. He knew what he was doing."

Martinez said Balfour threw in a profanity when he yelled toward the plate.

"I'm not a rookie. I'm a veteran, and I'm a leader on my teams. I don't take that," Martinez said while including a few profane words of his own during his explanation. "He can't intimidate me."

Smith, Folk lead New York Jets past Falcons

ATLANTA (AP)—Geno Smith wasn't flustered. Not after all the mistakes in his first four games. Not after the Atlanta Falcons went ahead on a touchdown with less than 2 minutes remaining.

Looking like a wily ol' veteran instead of a rookie, Smith calmly guided the New York Jets to another victory.

Smith threw three touchdown passes and directed a drive that set up Nick Folk's 43-yard field goal on the final play, giving the Jets a 30-28 victory over the staggering Falcons on Monday night.

"It's always been a dream of mine since I was a kid to be in those situations," Smith said.

After the Falcons went ahead on Matt Ryan's 3-yard touchdown pass to Levine Toilolo with 1:54 remaining, Smith completed four straight passes and broke off an 8-yard run that set up Folk's field goal as time expired.

The Jets (3-2) have been waiting for this sort of performance from Smith, who came into the game leading the NFL with 11 turnovers, including eight interceptions. He completed 16 of 20 passes for 199 yards and threw almost as many touchdown passes as the four he had in the first four games.

"My confidence is always sky-high," Smith said. "Nothing can bring me down."

Smith put in extra work at practice to cut down on the turnovers, and it sure paid off. He was sacked four times but never lost the ball.

"It's a mindset," he said. "I made it my duty to come out here and not put the ball on the ground and not put my team in jeopardy."

The Falcons (1-4) rallied from a 27-14 deficit in the fourth quarter. Jacquizz Rodgers scored on a pair of touchdown runs, and Ryan also threw a scoring pass to Jason Snelling.

AP

New York Jets running back Chris Ivory goes up and over Atlanta Falcons safety William Moore (25) during the second half of an NFL football game Monday, Oct. 7, 2013, in Atlanta. The Jets won, 30-28.

But they couldn't stop Smith when it mattered.

"He's a rookie," Atlanta safety William Moore said, "and we make him look like a 10-year veteran."

Considered a Super Bowl contender at the beginning of the season, Atlanta is mired in a three-game longest losing streak—its longest since 2007 - heading into a bye week.

The Jets led 17-7 after a goal-line stand on the final play of the first half, which turned out to be awful big at the end of the game.

Atlanta had two cracks at the end zone on fourth-and-goal from the 1. The first attempt resulted in an incomplete pass, but the Jets were called for pass interference when they grabbed Tony Gonzalez as he tried to get open.

The Falcons again passed on a chip-shot field goal, and curiously decided to hand it to their smallest back - Rodgers is just 5-foot-6 and 196 pounds - for a power run behind their shaky offensive line. Rodgers was swallowed up by the New York line, sending the Jets racing off the field in celebration while the Falcons staggered to their locker room to a round of boos from the Georgia Dome crowd.

Rodgers and the Falcons rallied in the second half.

The diminutive back scored on a 4-yard run midway through the third quarter, then broke off a 19-yard score to cut the Jets' lead to 27-21 with 8:10 remaining. The Falcons finally surged ahead, taking advantage of a holding call on Demario Davis after the Jets batted down a pass to Rodgers. Two plays later, Ryan hooked up with Toilolo, a tight end known more for his blocking.

But New York had plenty of time to pull off the winning drive.

Smith completed a 12-yard pass to Stephen Hill, a 13 yarder to Jeremy Kerley, and went to Hill again on a 9-yarder. Smith scrambled around left end to the Atlanta 38. After one more Smith completion, the Jets let the clock run down and sent on their kicker.

There was no doubt about it.

"I hit it pretty solid," Folk said. "As soon as I saw it go and get up in the air, I knew it was pretty good."

Ryan completed 36 of 45 passes for 319 yards. Gonzalez hauled in 10 receptions for 97 yards and became just the second player in NFL history to catch a pass in 200 consecutive games, trailing only Jerry Rice (274). Julio Jones had eight catches for 99 yards.

Houston's Kubiak sticking with Schaub

HOUSTON (AP)—Matt Schaub still has his starting job.

Houston coach Gary Kubiak is sure of that. He's less certain of how to get his veteran quarterback back on track and the Texans back in the win column.

But he knows it isn't by benching him.

''You watch the struggle and you just want to be a part of the solution,'' Kubiak said.

''You want to be a part of helping him work his way through that. The only way I know how to do it is you play our way through that stuff. So that's what I'm trying to help him with and figure out and push him through it, so that our football game can push through it."

Schaub threw three interceptions in Houston's blowout loss to San Francisco on Sunday night that extended the team's losing streak to three games.

His first interception was returned for a touchdown, marking the fourth straight game that an opponent had taken one of his interceptions for a score.

Kubiak is worried about Schaub's confidence and is looking for ways to help him be successful again.

''That's only natural,'' he said when asked about the possibility of Schaub's confidence wavering. ''For some of those things to happen to you over a period of time, yeah you worry about that. But the reason he's played a long time is because he's very tough mentally, physically.''

Kubiak said he isn't concerned that he'll have discord in the locker room if he doesn't make a change at quarterback. Houston's other quarterbacks are T.J. Yates, who led Houston to its first playoff win two years ago when Schaub was hurt, and Case Keenum, who had a record-setting career at the University of Houston.

''Our football team respects his work and how he goes about getting ready to play,'' Kubiak said of Schaub. ''Obviously, we're all disappointed because we're having to overcome way too much. But I do have a belief that it can be fixed and get corrected and get headed in the right direction.''

Kubiak said that the Texans ''can't survive'' if Schaub continues to make mistakes such as he has the past three games. He added that the coaching staff was hard at work on Monday trying to figure out how to help Schaub turn things around.

The 10-year veteran has already thrown nine interceptions through five games after being picked off just 12 times all of last season. He's thrown for 1,366 yards with eight touchdowns and is completing about 64 percent of his passes, which is on par with his performance last season.

Kubiak is baffled about why Schaub has been making so many mistakes this season. But he's quick to point out that the quarterback shouldn't shoulder all of the blame for the miscues.

''You're trying to put your players in the best position to be successful,'' Kubiak said. ''So you call something and something goes wrong, you look at yourself. That's just the way you're built. I've been that way my whole career.''

Presidents Cup is an exercise of PGA Tour control

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)—The Presidents Cup is more of an exhibition than a competition, even on that rare occasion when the matches are competitive.

That only becomes a problem if nothing has changed 20 years from now.

A bigger issue would be if the quality of golf suffered.

Look beyond a week of rain that turned Muirfield Village into target practice. Try to forget the disjointed nature of this Presidents Cup when players twice had to return the next morning to complete matches, even though it was darker than when they had stopped the night before.

Zach Johnson closed out one match with a wedge from 115 yards that spun into the cup for eagle.

Remember that time at Harding Park when Tiger Woods laced a 3-iron into the 18th green that was so pure he twirled the club and stretched out both arms as he walked after the shot? This time it was a fairway metal into the 15th, and he crouched for a below-the-belt, double fist pump when it plopped down 4 feet below the hole.

Graham DeLaet twice holed shots for birdie on the 18th green - on the same day. He knocked in a bunker shot Sunday afternoon to close out 20-year-old Jordan Spieth. That morning, the Canadian chipped in for birdie from the front of the green.

"No one ever practices that shot because the ball never stays there," Keegan Bradley said.

Bradley followed that chip-in birdie with a 10-foot birdie putt of his own, set up by one of the best shots of the week. Phil Mickelson had to play a hook with the ball below his feet to get around a tree and up the hill to a pin 190 yards away. He shut the face of a 7-iron and stuck it in the tiny, right corner of the 18th green.

Yes, it was a real exhibition of golf, as it usually is in these formats.

But a competition?

The United States won (again), 18 1/2-15 1/2, an outcome that could be considered close only with a little imagination.

The Americans assured themselves a tie when Johnson defeated Branden Grace for the 17th point. It took more than an hour until Woods beat Richard Sterne on the 18th hole for the winning point. The Americans won for the fifth straight time and improved to 8-1-1.

"We all know how close it really was," Jack Nicklaus said before handing the gold trophy to the American team.

International captain Nick Price wasn't so sure.

The Americans had a 14-8 lead going into singles and had to win only four of 12 matches. And they did, even if it took longer than expected.

On his way to the villa for a few beers—the Internationals lead the series 10-0 when it comes to the after party - Price was a mixture of frustration and honesty.

"People say it was close. Jack said it was close. You tell me," Price said. "We were behind the 8-ball today. If we pulled it off, it would have been miraculous. But then there's the debate. Did they take it easy with a big lead? I don't know. If you have a real feel for the game ... it would have been so hard for us to win."

Price was more bothered by a format that he said favors the Americans. There are 34 matches at the Presidents Cup compared with 28 at the Ryder Cup. Everyone plays the first two days. There is no hiding the weaker players, such as when European captain Mark James didn't let three rookies play until Sunday in the 1999 Ryder Cup.

Price lobbied for change. PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem denied his request. "Unless it's broken, don't really mess with it," was Finchem's logic.

When he was appointed captain of the Ryder Cup, Paul Azinger asked the PGA of America for four captains' picks instead of two. His wish was granted, and the Americans won back the cup at Valhalla.

To whom does Price appeal?

What hurts the credibility of the Presidents Cup is the lack of ownership by the International team, even when the matches leave America. Imagine a World Series between two teams with the same owner.

How can it be looked upon as a competition when the whole affair is orchestrated by one organization?

It was stunning two years ago to learn that a simple change - starting with four-balls instead of foursomes - required approval of the PGA Tour policy board.

Never mind that the International team has 12 players who are, will be or want to be PGA Tour members. This is supposed to be the United States against players from every continent except Europe. But it's governed exclusively by the American-based PGA Tour.

Finchem is and always has been chairman of the International Federation of PGA Tours. Why not let the host tour (South Africa, Canada, Australia) call the shots? Better yet, why not let the host tour reap the financial benefits to help strengthen its tour?

"This is a PGA Tour event," Price said. "How is South Africa or Australia going to tell the PGA Tour how to run an event?"

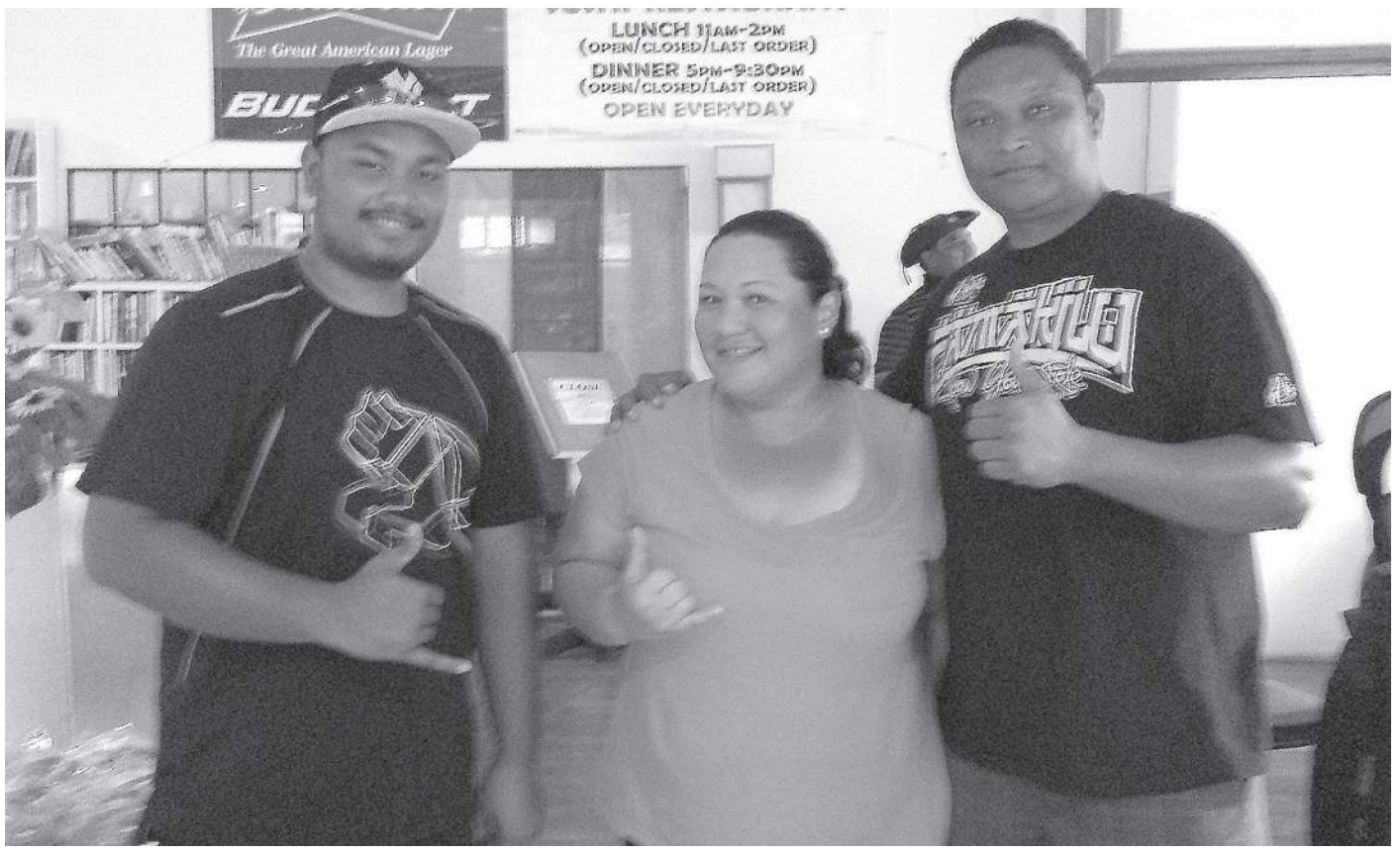
Price made it clear he wants to be captain again. "Don't care where it is," he said.

Fred Couples, Gary Player and Peter Thomson have been captains three times. Nicklaus was captain four times. It would seem reasonable to bring back Price.

But who decides? Price smiled.

"Tim told me the International Federation makes that choice," he said.

Nakamura bags MGA September Ace



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Harry Nakamura, Geri Dela Cruz, and Ned Norita pose for a photo after competing in the MGA September Ace of the Tournament last month.

Marianas Golf Association (MGA) held its September Ace of the Month Tournament late last month at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort with Harry Nakamura topping the competition.

The September Ace of the Month went to Nakamura after he shot a 38 on the front nine and 41 on the back for a 79 gross score. With a handicap of 16, Nakamura ended up with a net score of 63 and a 10-shot win over Geri Dela Cruz.

Dela Cruz carded a 49 in the first nine holes and a 50 in the last for a gross 99. With a handicap of 26, Dela Cruz came up with a net 73 to settle for runner-up honors. Rounding out the Top 3 was Ned Norita, who fired a 41 on the front nine and a 43 on the back for a gross score of 84. With a handicap of 8, Norita netted a score of 76.

Besides the September Ace of the Month contest, MGA also held closest to the pin competitions.

Jack Salas won the closest to the pin contest on hole No. 3, Carl Hocog prevailed on holes No. 7 and 12, and Marco Peter topped hole No. 14.

Meanwhile, the club's October Ace of the Month is scheduled this Sunday at the Kingfisher Golf Links. Showtime for this tournament is 9am, while tee off is at 10am. Greens fee is $30.

MGA would like to thank Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort for its continuing support to the club's Ace of the Month tournaments.

For more information about MGA and updates on upcoming tournaments, please contact J.J. Atalig at 285-4115, Greg Sablan Jr. at 483-8263, or email marianasgolf670@gmail.com. The public can also view the organization's Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/MarianasGolfAssociation. ***(PR)***

Pacers, Rockets play in first NBA game in PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Houston Rockets and the Indiana Pacers are in the Philippines to treat overseas fans to the first NBA game in this basketball-crazy Southeast Asian nation.

Both teams flew in early Monday ahead of the NBA's preseason Global Games in the Philippines on Thursday evening.

Basketball is the country's most popular sport and the NBA game has created a buzz on social media and radio and TV, with tickets going on sale months in advance.

"We're just excited to come over to play the game and give Filipinos a great show," Houston Rockets guard James Harden said.

The Rockets squad for the games in the Philippines and Taiwan includes Jeremy Lin, the league's first American-born player of Taiwanese descent. The Indiana Pacers roster features Danny Granger and NBA All-Stars Paul George, Roy Hibbert, and David West.

Organizers said the game is part of the NBA's comprehensive global schedule that will have eight teams play in eight cities in six countries this October. After Manila, the Rockets and Pacers play in Taipei on Sunday.

In the Global Games series, there'll be 12 teams playing outside the U.S. and Canada, the most ever, and the league will play regular-season games in two countries beyond those for the first time.

There are stops in old standbys and first-time trips to cities in Brazil and Spain that will be hosting major international competitions in the next few years.

The Philippines tops the list of countries following the NBA on Facebook and Twitter outside the United States, the organizers said. Additionally, the NBA conducts each year local events in the Philippines, including the Jr. NBA program, which has reached more than 60,000 students, parents and coaches over the past five years, and NBA 3X, the league's global fan event.

A total of 16,000 tickets went on sale for Thursday's game at the seaside Mall of Asia Arena, with premium seats going for 32,300 pesos ($751) and the cheapest 550 pesos ($12), in a country where wrenching poverty affects a third of the population of 96 million.

JERICHO

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picked him to try out for a spot on the Philippine Team.

"I didn't know that news, I haven't got the invite yet. But I would love to play for the Philippines," said Cruz, who was born in the Philippines but grew up on Saipan and honed his skills on the island. "Being invited just to try out for the Philippine Team flatters me. It will be a once in a lifetime opportunity."

Cruz has just concluded his second season with the Adamson University in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP), the country's premier collegiate league. His Soaring Falcons finished seventh in the eight-team field with a 4-10 card.

Cruz was Adamson's leading scorer, posting 14.5 points per game to place ninth overall among the league's scoring leaders. He also logged in averages of 4.4 in rebounds and 3.2 in steals to finish 19th in the statistical points race. The sophomore shot 46.2 percent from the field and a respectable 54.2 percent from the free throw line, but have to improve his three-point shooting after a 17.9 percent clip from beyond the arc. The 3.9 turnovers per contest Cruz registered the whole season is the lone blot on his impressive resume. He once recorded nine turnovers in the Falcons' 74-71 loss to the Far Eastern University (FEU) Tamaraws on July 28.

Meanwhile, besides Cruz, two-time UAAP Most Valuable Player (MVP) Bobby Ray Parks Jr. of National University, 2001 UAAP Rookie of the Year Kiefer Ravena of Ateneo, FEU's RR Garcia, San Beda's Garvo Lanete and Jake Pascual, and naturalized center Marcus Douthit are also being considered on the 19-player pool.

Parks Jr., Ravena, Garcia, Lanete and Pascual are part of the Norman Black-coached Team Philippines that won the gold medal in the 2011 SEA Games held in Jakarta, Indonesia. Douthit is also a member of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) World Championship-bound Philippine Team.

Gilas cadet pool players Matt Ganuelas and Kevin Alas, Asean Basketball League veteran Chris Banchero, San Beda's Kyle Pascual, reigning UAAP MVP Terrence Romeo and Mark Belo of Far Eastern University, University of the East's Roi Sumang, Letran's Raymund Almazan, Arellano's Prince Caperal, University of Santo Tomas's Kevin Ferrer, De La Salle's Arnold Van Opstal and Ateneo's Chris Newsome are on the list, too, according to Barrios.

Barrios, the former Philippine Basketball Association commissioner, added head coach Jong Uichico and assistants Nash Racela and Josh Reyes will select the final 12 players several weeks before the competition begins. The SEA Games will run from Dec. 11 to 22.

The Philippines won its 15th gold medal in basketball (since the sport was first played in the biennial meet in 1977) in 2011 after beating Thailand in the finals, 85-57. The PH Nationals posted a 41-point winning margin in the six games they played in Indonesia.

SWIMMERS

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tively, and Taiyo Akimaru registering 48.25 seconds (55.21). Tsunami Saipan's Hans Xu was the fifth swimmer to earn a PBT in the men's 50m butterfly after timing in at 48.25 seconds, surpassing his seed time (55.21 seconds) by about seven seconds.

Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura had the fastest time in the event with 28.10 seconds, but it was slower than his PBT of 27.57 seconds.

In the 200m freestyle, six new PBTs were recorded with SSC's Conatsu Kaga the lone swimmer to notch a PBT in the women's division. The 10-year-old Kaga completed the event in 3:12.47, nearly 12 seconds faster than her seed time (3:24.46).

In the men's 200m freestyle, Tsunami Saipan and siblings Ryuto and Kenshiro Yanai posted new PBTs after clocking in at 2:31.46 (from 2:34.63) and 3:02.05 (from 3:17.86), respectively. Mark Maestro was the third Tsunami Saipan swimmer to bag a PBT in the event with his 2:45.10, more than 11 seconds better than his seed time (2:56.12). Also eclipsing their PBTs were SSC's Lennosuke Suzuki (2:48.58 from 2:49.87) and Christian Villacrusis (2:38.36 from 2:43.16).

Seven more PBTs fell in the third event of the weekend meet—the 100m breaststroke Tsunami Saipan's Daime Rivera recorded one of those PBTs with her 1:41.12 (from 1:41.63) also considered as the fastest in the women's field. Her younger sister, Kyona (1:43.89), and teammates Sophia Gauran (1:52.18) and Katherine Illahi (1:58.47) also tallied PBTs. SSC's Couge Kaga completed the list of swimmers who got PBTs in the event, recording 2:07.16 and posting the biggest drop, as her previous PBT stood at 2:35.61.

In the men's 100m breaststroke, Kaito Yanai finished ahead of three others and set a new PBT with his 1:13.55 (from 1:14.15). His teammate Towa Irinaka also logged a PBT after clocking in at 1:53.18 (from 2:02.48).

Meanwhile, results of the other races in NMISF's first competition of the season will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Thursday and Friday editions.

ARMATECH

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halftime lead. Big men Hae Jun Park and Bruce Berline pounded PIC's much smaller frontliners inside to help Armatech/MDX dominate its foe.

It was still a Armatech/MDX show in the third quarter, as it rotated its players well to more than double up PIC after that canto, 63-26. Ahead by 37 with only one quarter to go, Armatech/MDX decided the lead was enough to let PIC score several uncontested shots in the final frame. Butch Sublemente benefited the most when Armatech/MDX relaxed in the fourth, as the PIC guard scored 13 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter.

Sublemente was the lone double figure scorer for PIC, while Armatech/MDX had four players tallying twin digits. Martin Moreno nailed 12, Bong Malasarte had 11, and Park and Berline chipped in 10 each. Sonny Ebuen and Jojo Detera contributed 8 apiece.

Meanwhile, organizers of the UFO caging are reminding Masters teams about the correct start time for this Saturday's games. The first match between Degree (2-0) and PIC (0-2) will kick off at 5pm, while the second game featuring Shakir Realty (1-1) and Laguna (0-1) is set for 6:30pm. The final game, which will be between Armatech and Blue Haus (1-0) will be played at 8pm.

Armatech/MDX 71 – Moreno 12, Malasarte 11, Park 10, Berline 10, Ebuen 8, Detera 8, Poquiz 4, Pineda 3, Crisostomo 2, Canedo 2.

Pacific Islands Club 46 – Sublemente 24, Tolentino 7, J. Ricafort 5, Bea 3, Hernandez 2, Ballesteros 2, Bartolo 1.

Scoring by quarters: 11-3, 33-12, 63-26, 71-46.

NMISF First Swimming Tournament

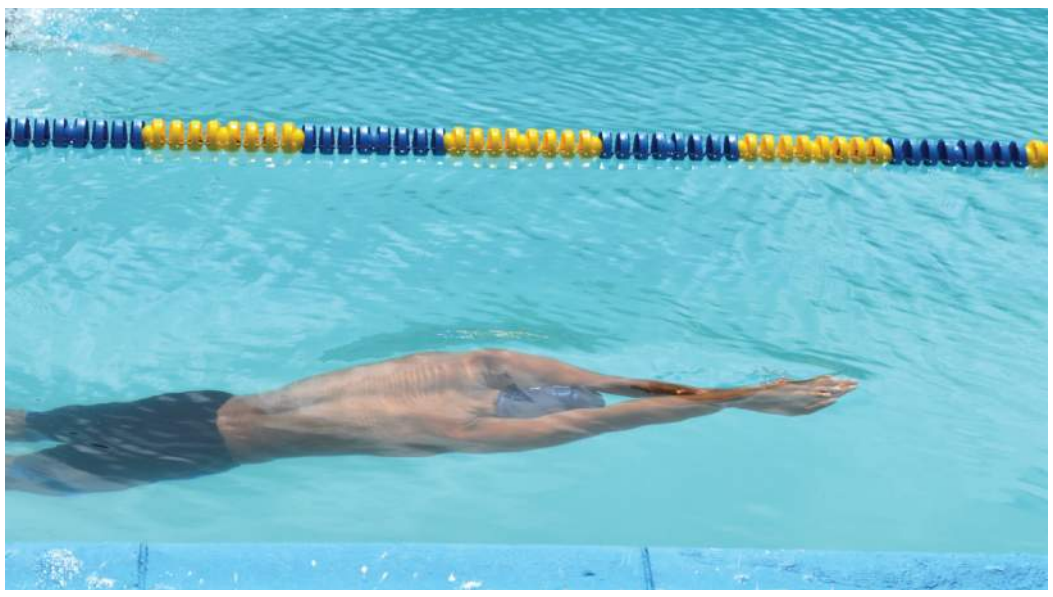
PHOTOS BY
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura passes the halfway mark of the first lap of the 100-m backstroke swim in the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation-hosted first tournament of the season held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru splashes water on himself before going to the startling block.

Swimmers and timers wait for the announcement of the heat.

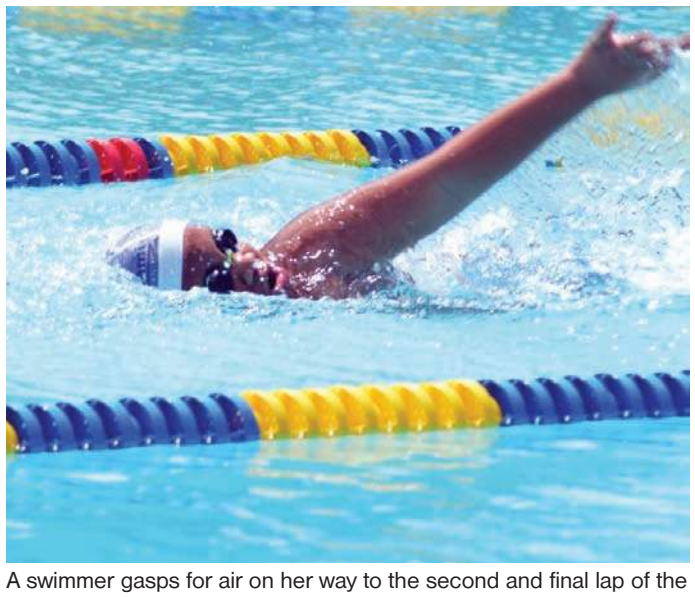
Swimmers and timers get ready for the 100m freestyle race.



Saipan Swim Club's David Boyer competes in the 100m freestyle event.

Tsunami Saipan's Yuuki Nishida, right, and Saipan Swim Club's Victoria Chentsova wait for other finishers in the 100m freestyle race.

Tsunami Saipan's Angel de Jesus waits for the start of the 100m freestyle event.



A swimmer gasps for air on her way to the second and final lap of the 100m freestyle race.

Saipan Swim Club coach Mike Villagomez looks at the swimmers next in line while Tsunami Saipan's Miku Tammy finishes her 100m backstroke swim.

Dodgers beat Braves to win NLDS on Uribe homer

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Sports

Smith, Folk lead New York Jets past Falcons

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Jericho eyed for PH cage team

By JON PEREZ
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Jericho Cruz is excited and humbled to be considered for the Philippine Team that will compete in the 27th Southeast Asian Games in Myanmar in December this year.

Cruz was among the top amateur standouts that Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas executive director Sonny Barrios said they will invite to tryout for the Philippine Team that will defend the gold medal in the biennial games. Nineteen players will be invited to join the pool and only 12 will don the national colors to the SEA Games.

Cruz, who suited up for the CNMI National Team during the 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament and the 2010 Micronesian Games, in a text message, said he was surprised that SBP has

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Adamson University's top scorer Jericho Cruz drives against National University defenders during their game in the UAAP caging last month in the Philippines.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Swimmers off to good start

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Swimmers get ready at the starting block during the 100 backstroke race in the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation-hosted first tournament of the season held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club and Tsunami Saipan swimmers produced personal best times in the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation-hosted first tournament of the season held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

The season-opening meet kicked off with the women's 50m butterfly race where Tsunami Saipan's Angel Marie Tan recorded the fastest time at 34.40 seconds. Tan's time last weekend eclipsed her seed or PBT (34.54 seconds). Also posting new PBTS were Tan's teammates Karen Irinaka (45.79 seconds from 46.72) and Aika Watanabe (51.89 seconds from 55.76).

In the men's 50m butterfly, five swimmers logged PBTs. SSC's David Boyer led the group with his 37.85 seconds, chopping off more than five seconds from his old mark (43.04 seconds). Three more SSC bets set new PBTs with Lennosuke and Jinnosuke Suzuki clocking in at 40.48 seconds (from 42.81 seconds) and 45.20 seconds (from 47.67 seconds), respec-

See SWIMMERS on Page 26

Armatech/MDX crushes PIC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Defending champion Armatech/MDX regrouped quickly and trounced Pacific Islands Club, 71-46, in the third and final game in the 2013 UFO-Budweiser Masters Division Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

Armatech/MDX lost its opener to Degree/UPAA, 56-70, and vented its ire on the hapless PIC, which suffered another bad beating after a 42-56 defeat to Shakir Realty in the opening day.

PIC failed to barge into the win column as it could not keep up with the much-deeper bench of Armatech/MDX. PIC's lack of manpower was evident right in the first quarter of its game against Armatech/MDX, as the former was held to one field goal and 3 points, while the latter did not even go to its usual starters, but still led, 11-3.

After an anemic first quarter, PIC still bled for points in the second canto, as it took nearly four minutes before it connected on its second field goal. PIC's poor offensive showing allowed Armatech/MDX to break the game wide open in the second frame, as the defending champion took a 33-12

See ARMATECH on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Pacific Islands Club's Carlos Ballesteros, left, goes up for a shot against Armatech/MDX's Hae Jun Park, center, and George Poquiz during the third quarter of their game in the Masters division of the UFO caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.